

# Undergraduate Elementary Education



Teachers play an important role in fostering the intellectual and social development of their students. Teachers act as facilitators or coaches, using classroom presentations or individual instruction to help students learn and apply concepts in identified subjects. They plan, evaluate and assign lessons; prepare, administer and grade tests; listen to oral presentations; and maintain classroom discipline. Teachers observe and evaluate a student's performance and potential, and increasingly are asked to use new assessment methods. Teachers also grade papers, prepare report cards and meet with students, parents and/or school staff to discuss a student's academic progress or personal problems.

## At Ottawa University

The Elementary Education major program at Ottawa University is designed to produce teachers who have the knowledge, social competencies, methods, communication skills, and sensitivity to be effective in the school environment. Students complete methods courses, professional education courses and field experience. They develop critical thinking skills through an analysis of educational history, philosophy and psychology; assessment of learning; and classroom management. They gain awareness of cultural diversity and the social and political contexts of education. Elementary education majors must also demonstrate ability in liberal arts areas, including mathematics, science, writing, communication, and the fine arts. The education major is based on state, regional and national licensure/certification criteria and testing competencies. The Ottawa University teacher education program is state approved in Arizona and Kansas. The programs are guided by the Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP).

## Careers

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, job opportunities for teachers over the next 10 years will vary from good to excellent, depending on the locality, grade level and subject taught. Most job openings will result from the need to replace the large number of teachers who are expected to retire through 2016.

## Education and Qualifications

The traditional route to becoming a public school teacher involves completing a bachelor's degree from a teacher education program and then obtaining a certificate/license in a specific state. Those who have a college degree in other fields may meet state guidelines by completing a teacher certification/licensure program.



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## Required Major Courses\*

### EDU 30731 The Teaching Profession I

Explores current and future teaching profession. Introduces Ottawa University's mission and teacher education program's conceptual framework. Learn about topics such as reflective inquiry, standards-driven classrooms, use of technology, and diversity of learners. Skills assessed in relation to profession.

### EDU 31132 The Exceptional Child

Become familiar with various emotional and behavioral disorders, health and physical impairments, and intellectual deviations associated with children (birth through high school age) who are identified as exceptional. Addresses strategies for meeting academic, social and emotional needs of these children within the confines of the classroom (including IEPs). Examines criteria for effectively working with administrators, specialists, support personnel, and family who impact the educational experiences of these children. Field experience required.

### EDU 31233 Educational Psychology

Designed to acquaint students with knowledge gained from educational psychologists in learning theory and practice, motivation and management, and effective instruction. Meets required competencies in research, teaching methods and materials, media and technology, teaching effectiveness, interpersonal relations, educational ethics, understanding the learner, teaching-learning process, learning styles, and understanding the relationship between school and home. Emphasis placed on understanding methods needed to maintain an effective learning environment through classroom management strategies and motivational techniques.

### EDU 33035 Foundations of Schools in a Diverse Society

Provides candidate with understanding of historical, philosophical and social foundations of education in the United States. Addresses legal and ethical issues. Covers how educational policy is formulated and affects classroom practice. Provides opportunities to learn from a variety of professionals from diverse backgrounds.

### EDU 20033 Integrating the Fine Arts

Design, implement and evaluate art experiences that are interrelated with other disciplines and developmentally appropriate, meaningful and challenging for all students. Lessons (designed and taught) demonstrate that the learners are developing positive disposition towards artistic exploration and expression.

### EDU 30030 Elementary Math Methods

Approaches and methodologies used in teaching mathematics in the elementary school. Emphasizes knowledge of mathematical concepts and their use in developing understanding of computational skills and logic of mathematics.

### EDU 30031 Elementary Math Methods/Practicum

Focuses on learning how to teach mathematics in the elementary school. Helps teacher candidates know, understand and use the major content and processes, as defined in state and national standards, with kindergarten through sixth grade students. Observe and practice mathematical procedures in authentic settings. 20 hours of field experience is required. Prerequisite or concurrent requisite: EDU 30030 Elementary Math Methods.

### EDU 33000 Elementary Language Arts and Social Studies Methods

Emphasis on approaches and methodologies used in teaching language arts in the elementary school. Learn to present techniques for teaching listening, oral language, writing, spelling, grammar, and handwriting through social science experiences (history, geography, social sciences, and other related areas) that are developmentally appropriate, meaningful and challenging for all students. Construct lessons that demonstrate ways for elementary students to become effective decision makers and responsible citizens in a culturally diverse democratic society and interdependent world.

### EDU 33132 Elementary Science Methods

Emphasis on approaches and methodologies used in teaching science in the elementary school. A hands-on approach to science methods for the acquisition of attitudes, skills and knowledge to teach science.

### EDU 33136 Elementary Primary Reading Methods/Practicum

Assists prospective elementary teachers in exploring and questioning how reading is taught. Develops skills in a variety of methods and approaches in reading programs in the primary classroom. Field experience is required.

### EDU 33236 Elementary Intermediate Reading Methods/Practicum

Assists prospective elementary teachers in exploring and questioning how reading is taught. Develops skills in a variety of methods and approaches to reading programs in the intermediate classroom. Field experience required.

### PED 30933 Health and Physical Education Methods for Elementary Classroom Teachers

Learn and use major concepts of health education, human movement and physical activity as central elements to foster active healthy lifestyles. Address integration of physical education and health concepts across curriculum instruction.

### EDU 44033 SEI Methods for ELL II

This course applies assessment in guiding ELL instruction, as well as describing the legal, historical and educational reasons for SEI. It identifies and uses multiple strategies to improve student achievement through integration.

### EDU 49001 Student Teaching I

Capstone field experience for elementary pre-service teachers. Provides opportunity to observe and teach in an elementary school setting. Consult Education Department for placement information. Prerequisite: All professional education courses and courses in the major must be completed prior to enrollment in course.

### EDU 49002 Student Teaching II

Continuation of Student Teaching I.

\*Other specific state requirements may be required