

# Graduate Master of Arts in Education-Elementary Education Unified



It has been widely understood that if the United States of America expects greater returns on its investments in education, we are going to need to put highly qualified, innovative minds in teaching and administrative positions. A Master of Arts in Education is a prerequisite for many education positions and is recognized by school districts as a valuable credential. A master's degree in education gives educators the knowledge and skills to inspire and encourage a love of learning and the techniques to handle diverse classrooms and learning styles. Master's degree programs in education prepare educators to utilize high-level teaching methodologies and provide the tools to make work in the field of education more effective and efficient.

## At Ottawa University

This program provides the skills and knowledge necessary to:

- ▶ Practice theory in a classroom setting.
- ▶ Engage in continued professional growth.
- ▶ Enhance teaching and services to students.
- ▶ Prepare and plan for change in the schools.
- ▶ Provide students with an engaging learning environment.
- ▶ Learn aspects of learning assessment and accountability.
- ▶ Engage in applying learning strategies for ELL instruction, the science of reading, exploring creativity, and students with special needs.

The Elementary Education Unified degree will provide students who are preparing for the education profession with a high-quality academic setting and field based experience. Educators will obtain a clear understanding of student need, instructional approaches, content knowledge, continued professional growth, and a commitment to creating a learning environment for all K-6 students. The degree is designed to assist in meeting the criteria to become a K-6 classroom teacher or a K-6 special education teacher (low-incident needs).

## Education and Qualifications

The traditional route to becoming a public school teacher involves completing a bachelor's or master'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. For supervisory or other advanced education positions, a master's degree may be required.

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## Foundation Courses

The following represent foundation courses for the Elementary Education concentration.

### EDF 7110 Foundation of Learning Theory

Evaluate key learning theories and environmental factors in relationship to student motivation, along with the behavioral and academic success of students.

### EDF 7210 Foundation of Education

Explore the historical and philosophical foundations of education in order to evaluate educational trends and create a personal philosophy of education while practicing the profession with intentionality.

### EDF 7310 Foundation of Exceptionality

A comprehensive investigation concerning the identification, support, and resources necessary for supporting families and children/students with exceptionalities. Utilizing a team-based approach, candidates will construct strategies for creating programs that advocate for and sustain an instructional program conducive to student learning and staff professional growth.

### EDF 7410 Foundation of Educational Research and Assessment

Evaluate the relevance of educational research to curriculum improvement, federal and state policies, systematic processes, and instructional and assessment strategies. Apply various research methods within educational environments at multiple levels.

### EDF 7500 Foundation of Ethical Practices in Education

Examines the ethical guidelines and professional educator standards. Analyze, engage in, and demonstrate aspects of reflective practice, critical perspectives, and making informed and ethical decisions. Candidates will learn about advocating for sound educational practices and policies.

### EDC 7321 Integrated Teaching in Elementary Social Studies, English and Language Arts

Examines the central concepts and structures of social studies (the integrated study of history, geography, people and places, economics, civics and government) and the English/language arts (Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening, Language, and ELL). Learn how to plan, implement, and assess social studies and language arts including aspects of language acquisition, phonics and comprehension strategies, personalized learning needs, use of performance data, application of learning technologies, and the principles of universal design. Field experience required.

### EDC 7320 Integrated Teaching in Elementary Science and Mathematics

Examines the understands and uses scientific disciplinary core ideas, cross-cutting concepts, and science and engineering practices central concepts, tools of inquiry, and introduces the structures of mathematics (counting and cardinality, operations and algebraic thinking, number and operation in base ten and fractions, measurement and data, geometry, ratios and proportional relationships, statistics and probability). Learn how to plan, implement, and assess science and mathematics concepts including engaging elementary learners in curiosity, critical thinking, creativity, exploration, sense-making, conceptual development, and collaborative problem-solving. Experiences will include designing personalized learning needs, ELL strategies, universal design, application of learning technologies, and intensive intervention strategies. Field experience required.

### EDC 7120 Arts and Wellness in the Elementary Classroom: Part I

Examines the central concepts, tools of inquiry, and structures of the arts (music, visual arts, dance, and/or theatre), physical education, and wellness.

### EDC 7121 Arts and Wellness in the Elementary Classroom: Part II

Learn to plan, implement, and assess (with adaptations as needed) learning experiences in the arts (music, visual arts, dance and/or theatre) and physical education, and wellness that engage all learners (including those with special needs) in critical thinking, creativity, and collaborative problem-solving.

### EDC 7700 The Professional Educator: Lab I

Gain experience with researched-based strategies, project-based instruction, global collaboration, and reflective practice, which assumes use of technology and universal design.

### EDC 7701 The Professional Educator: Lab II

Gain strategies for instruction, inclusion, classroom organization, data management, and student engagement.

### EDC 8500 Clinical Practice I: Elementary Unified and ELA (English/Language Arts) Teaching Lab

Student teaching in selected inclusive classrooms with emphasis on the ELA elementary education standards and ELL standard (including phonics, the science of reading, and language acquisition). Special seminars and continuous evaluation of teaching experiences.

### EDC 8501 Clinical Practice II: Elementary Unified and Mathematics Teaching Lab

Student teaching in selected inclusive classrooms with emphasis on the mathematics elementary education standards. Special seminars and continuous evaluation of teaching experiences.

### EDF 8503 Master's Research Project

Prepare major culminating scholarly project directly relevant to the program of study. Approved project proposal required.