Elementary Education Certificate Program

Classroom teachers with an elementary education endorsement may be assigned to teach any subject in grades K-8. Per ESSA, districts are no longer required to identify and document Highly Qualified Teachers. Moving forward, the state of Washington will continue to monitor teacher qualifications and collect data about certification, endorsements, teaching assignments, and years of experience. Districts may still maintain previous requirements that impact eligibility for certain middle school teaching assignments in a core academic subject(s). Candidates are responsible for consulting with an advisor for further information on what endorsement will best fit their teaching career goals.

The program in elementary education is designed to provide a combination of theory, methods, and field experience. Prior to entering the program, undergraduates will complete most or all of their general university requirements (GURs). After completion of the GURs, it will usually take eight or nine quarters to graduation, given a course load of 15-17 credits. Post-baccalaureate students must have completed a major from the approved list below or call 360.650.3336 for further advisement. Post-baccalaureate students typically finish the professional program in six quarters.

Highly Recommended Pre-requisites Prior to Admission

In order to complete the program in a timely manner, it is strongly recommended that, prior to applying, you complete:

- **ENG 370 or LING 201 or ELL 432** (ELL 432 is included in the Language, Literacy, and Cultural Studies major)
- **MATH 112 or WWU Math Placement Test with a minimum score of 150 or WWU Advanced Math Placement Test with a minimum score of 143 or Approved Intermediate Algebra or College Algebra or Pre-Calculus Course at a Community College**
- **SCED 201 or equivalent & The Natural Sciences block of GURS**

Admission and Retention

Admission to Western Washington University and admission to Elementary Education are required before a student may begin taking courses in the Professional Sequence. Requirements for consideration of an application include:

- completion of a minimum of 45 credits
- cumulative grade point average of 2.75 or higher overall or for the last 45 credits
- meet the WEST-B Requirement. This may be met by: a) Passing the West-B exam, b) SAT minimum scores, c) ACT minimum scores. Visit wce.wwu.edu/admissions/west-b-requirement for more information
- completion of an English composition course with grade of B- or higher
- completed application

Enrollment restrictions apply in all teacher education programs. Meeting the above criteria makes the applicant eligible for admission, but does not guarantee admission. Applications from students who meet all the criteria are evaluated to determine those most qualified. All applicants are then rank-ordered, and a final list created based on available openings. For further information, visit Teacher Education Admissions, Miller Hall 150, call 360-650-3310 or visit the web site at wce.wwu.edu/admissions/elementary-education

Retention in the program requires continuous demonstration of competence in standard oral and written English in all course work. Retention also requires maintenance of a 2.75 quarterly GPA for each quarter upon admission to Elementary Education. Courses required for a state teaching endorsement and for the professional education sequence must be completed with a grading of C (2.0) or better.
**Academic Majors**

The following majors are approved BAEs for elementary certification. Additional majors are possible under advisement. For further information on the applicability of a particular major, consult an adviser in the Elementary Education Department.

| Anthropology | General Science Middle Level | *Language, Literacy, & Cultural Studies |
| Art          | Geography                   | Mathematics                             |
| Environmental Studies | Geology (Earth Science) | Psychology (Human Development) |
| French       | German                      | Sociology                               |
| General Science | History                 | Spanish                                 |

*Admission to the Elementary Education Professional Program is required to declare this major.

**Student Advisement**

Prospective elementary education students are invited to meet with an advisor for more information about the program. Once admitted to the program, students are assigned a faculty advisor with whom they will stay in contact throughout their program.

**Elementary Education Professional Sequence**

In most quarters, undergraduate students will combine elementary professional program courses with academic major courses. **ELED 303, ELED 310 and ELED 370 must be taken together as a block in quarter 1.**

**Coursework in the Internship Year**

Students are required to take 3 internship quarters in a block sequence. Substitutions may not be made. During the first two quarters of internship, students are expected to follow the Western calendar; during the 3rd quarter of full-time internship, students will follow the school calendar of the district in which they are teaching, **not** the Western calendar. You will receive more information on the Internship Year at the informational meetings that precede your internship year.

Western Washington University is an equal opportunity institution. For disability accommodation, please contact [disAbility Resources for Students](mailto:disAbilityResourcesforStudents). Old Main 120, 360.650.3083 (voice) or 360.650.7175 (VP). *(7/2013 version)*

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