Elementary Education, B.A.

Degree Offered

- Bachelor of Arts

Nature of the Program

The BA in Elementary Education program is an innovative, 4-year on-campus program at West Virginia University that prepares students to earn a teaching certification in multi-subject grades K-6 upon graduation. As part of the program, students complete work in local, public school placements during their junior year, both fall and spring. Then, students are placed in a year-long residency their senior year, working in their schools 250 hours in the fall semester and full-time in the spring semester. The BA in Elementary Education program values the learning that happens not only in the WVU classrooms, but also in the application of these lessons in the field, as students graduate with over 800 of hours of practice and experience teaching in local schools.

In addition to an emphasis on experience in local schools, the Elementary Education program is committed to high academic standards at the state and national levels. Program faculty work with national accreditation standards and contribute to the profession at university, state, and national levels. This work involves exploration of technology, diversity, global initiatives, and culturally responsive teaching, facilitated by faculty who are leaders in research, teaching, and service.

The Elementary Education program also allows the space for students to find their individual areas of interest, for which many pursue a Master's degree. Students in the program can begin working as a classroom teacher after graduation and go on to earn graduate degrees.

Admissions for 2025-2026

FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN

Admission to the BA Elementary Education program is consistent with admission requirements for First-Time Freshmen applying to WVU. You can find more information at:

Admission Requirements for First-Time Freshmen - Undergraduate Admissions at WVU (https://admissions.wvu.edu/how-to-apply/first-time-freshmen/admission-requirements/)

CURRENT WVU STUDENTS

Students admitted from other majors within WVU must have a 2.5 minimum cumulative GPA.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

Students transferring from another institution must have a 2.5 minimum cumulative GPA.

Major Code: 5501

Curriculum Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
A minimum GPA of 2.75 is required for graduation.		
University Requirements		10
Elementary Education Major Requirements		110
Total Hours		120

University Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Foundations (GEF) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 (31-37 Credits)		
Outstanding GEF Requirements 1 and 6		9
CAHS 191		1
Total Hours		10

Elementary Education Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
A minimum GPA of 2.75 is required in all Elementary Education Major Requirements.		
Select one of the following (GEF 2):		4
BIOL 101 & 101L	General Biology 1 and General Biology 1 Laboratory	
BIOL 102 & 102L	General Biology 2 and General Biology 2 Laboratory	
BIOL 105 & 105L	Environmental Biology and Environmental Biology Laboratory	
MATH 124	Algebra with Applications (GEF 3)	3
PSYC 101	Introduction to Psychology (GEF 4)	3
Select one of the following (GEF 5):		3
HIST 152	Growth of the American Nation to 1865	
HIST 153	Making of Modern America: 1865 to the Present	
Select one of the following (GEF 7):		3
ANTH 105	Introduction to Anthropology	
POLS 103	Global Political Issues	
Select one of the following (GEF 8):		3
HIST 179	World History to 1500	
HIST 180	World History Since 1500	
Select two of the following (GEF 8):	For one of the science electives, the lab must accompany the lecture.	7
ASTR 106 & 106L	Descriptive Astronomy and Descriptive Astronomy Laboratory	
CHEM 111 & 111L	Survey of Chemistry 1 and Survey of Chemistry 1 Laboratory	
GEOL 101 & 101L	Planet Earth and Planet Earth Laboratory	
PHYS 105 & 105L	Conceptual Physics and Conceptual Physics Laboratory	
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS		
CDFS 110	Families Across the Life Span	3
or PSYC 241	Introduction to Human Development	
GEOG 102	World Regions	3
EDUC 330	Mathematics for Elementary Teachers 1	3
EDUC 331	Mathematics for Elementary Teachers 2	3
ART 103	Materials and Procedures	2
MUSC 182	Music in the Elementary School	2
C&I 365	Dance and Movement in PK-12 Schools	2
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS		
A minimum grade of C- is required in all Professional Education courses.		
EDUC 200	Professional Inquiry in Education	3
EDUC 311	Practicum 1/Technology Application	1
EDUC 312	Practicum 2/Technology Application	1
EDUC 410	Practicum 3	2
C&I 304	Social/Emotional Learning and Trauma-Informed Teaching	2
C&I 311	ELL and Language Acquisition for Elementary Teachers	2
C&I 413	Early Childhood Issues and Methods	3
C&I 427	Place-based Elementary Education	2
C&I 431	Mathematics Methods for Elementary Teachers 1	3
C&I 433	Mathematics Methods for Elementary Teachers 2	3
C&I 440	Science Methods for Elementary Teachers 1	3
C&I 442	Science Methods for Elementary Teachers 2	3

C&I 451	Social Studies for Elementary Teachers 1	3
C&I 452	Social Studies for Elementary Teachers 2	3
C&I 461	Exploring and Developing Literacy Foundations	3
C&I 462	Literacy 2: Reading Assessment and Instruction	3
EDUC 462	Literacy 3: Composing Texts	3
C&I 468	Art Integration in the Elementary Classroom	2
C&I 491	Professional Field Experience	9
C&I 497	Research	3
SPED 404	Special Education in Contemporary Society	3
SPED 460	Differentiation of Instruction	3
EDP 301	Learning in PreK-Adult Educational Settings	3
Total Hours		110

Suggested Plan of Study

First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
CAHS 191	1	CDFS 110 or PSYC 241	3
ENGL 101 (GEF 1)	3	GEOG 102	3
MATH 124 (GEF 3)	3	GEOL 101 (GEF 8)	3
PHYS 105 & 105L (GEF 8)	4	HIST 179 or 180 (GEF 8)	3
PSYC 101 (GEF 4)	3	GEF 6	3
ANTH 105 or POLS 103	3		
	17		15

Second Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
ENGL 102 (GEF 1)	3	EDUC 200	3
HIST 152 or 153 (GEF 5)	3	C&I 304	2
BIOL Requirement (GEF 2)	4	EDUC 330	3
C&I 365	2	SPED 404	3
MUSC 182 or ART 103	2	C&I 311	2
		ART 103 or MUSC 182	2
	14		15

Third Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
EDUC 311	1	EDUC 312	1
SPED 460	3	C&I 431	3
C&I 468	2	C&I 462	3
EDUC 331	3	C&I 440	3
C&I 461	3	C&I 413	3
EDP 301	3	C&I 451	3
	15		16

Fourth Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
EDUC 410	2	C&I 497	3
EDUC 462	3	C&I 491	9
C&I 433	3		
C&I 452	3		
C&I 442	3		

C&I 427	2	
	16	12

Total credit hours: 120

Major Learning Outcomes

BA ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

1. Teacher candidates will execute the instructional cycle of planning, instructing, assessing, and adjusting based on data, the learner, and the learning environment.

2. Teacher candidates will demonstrate positive, solution-based, professional verbal and written communication with sensitivity to context and audience.

3. Teacher candidates will conduct themselves in a manner that aligns with the professional dispositions for teaching, regardless of the context.

4. Teacher candidates will create and sustain a learning environment that supports the success of all learners and their adults, including developmental, linguistic, cultural, racial, ethnic, and gender diversity.

5. Teacher candidates will work collaboratively with colleagues and adults significant to students on activities that connect schools, families, and the larger community.1. Teacher candidates will develop knowledge of content, students, and pedagogy needed to effectively support the learning of all students in elementary classrooms.

2. Teacher candidates will develop understanding of and execute the instructional cycle of planning, instructing, assessing, and adjusting based on data, the learner, and the learning environment.

3. Teacher candidates will demonstrate positive, solution-based, professional verbal and written communication with sensitivity to context and audience.

4. Teacher candidates will develop and demonstrate the professional dispositions for teaching, regardless of the context.

5. Teacher candidates will create and sustain a learning environment that supports the success of all learners and their adults, including developmental, linguistic, cultural, racial, ethnic, and gender diversity.

6. Teacher candidates will work collaboratively with colleagues and adults significant to students on activities that connect schools, families, and the larger community.

Policies

MATRICULATION POLICIES

- Students must earn at least a grade of “C-” in all professional education courses to remain in the BA Elementary Education program. Earning a grade less than a “C-” may result in the student being removed from the program. In this event, the student must contact an advisor immediately.
- Students who arrange to receive a grade of “I” (incomplete) must complete all requirements to change the incomplete to a grade prior to the beginning of the next semester. If the student does NOT get the grade of “I” changed to a passing grade, the student will NOT be able to matriculate to the next semester of courses. In this event, the student must contact an advisor immediately.
- Students must maintain at least a 2.75 grade point average in order to remain in the BA Elementary Education program. If the GPA falls below 2.75, the student will be permitted to continue on a probationary status for ONE semester. At the end of that semester of probation, the student’s overall GPA must be at least a 2.75 in order to be eligible to continue in the program. A student is permitted only one probationary semester in the program. Should the student’s GPA fall below a 2.75 a second time, that student will not be eligible to matriculate. In this event, the student must contact an advisor immediately.

TESTING BENCHMARKS

WV STATE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Praxis II/Elementary Education test [NOTE: Successful completion of this assessment is required prior to the final semester / full-time student teaching; scores must be received prior to the first day of the final / full-time placement.]
- edTPA, Teacher Performance Assessment: Required as part of the Student Teaching semester. [NOTE: Successful completion of this assessment is required prior to applying for a WV teaching license and for WVU program completion.]

Disclaimer: State Board of Education requirements may change testing and program requirements.