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 West Virginia 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 900 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 minor and/or begin coursework toward 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 2027-2028

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

General Education Foundations

Please use this link to view a list of courses that meet each GEF requirement. (http://registrar.wvu.edu/gef/)

NOTE: Some major requirements will fulfill specific GEF requirements. Please see the curriculum requirements listed below for details on which GEFs you will need to select.

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Foundations		
F1 - Composition & Rhetoric		3-6
ENGL 101 & ENGL 102 or ENGL 103	Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric and Composition, Rhetoric, and Research Accelerated Academic Writing	
F2A/F2B - Science & Technology		4-6
F3 - Math & Quantitative Reasoning		3-4
F4 - Society & Connections		3
F5 - Human Inquiry & the Past		3
F6 - The Arts & Creativity		3
F7 - Global Studies & Diversity		3

F8 - Focus (may be satisfied by completion of a minor, double major, or dual degree)	9
Total Hours	**31-37**

Please note that not all of the GEF courses are offered at all campuses. Students should consult with their advisor or academic department regarding the GEF course offerings available at their campus.

Curriculum Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
A minimum GPA of 2.5 is required for graduation.		
University Requirements		53
Elementary Education Major Requirements		67
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 (GEF 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)		31
General Electives		20
CAHS 191	First-Year Seminar	2
Total Hours		**53**

Elementary Education Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
A minimum GPA of 2.5 is required in all Elementary Education Major Requirements.		
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS		
Select one of the following GEF 3 requirements:		3
MATH 124	Algebra with Applications (or higher)	
or EDUC 232	Data Literacy: Strategies and Applications	
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS		
A minimum grade of C- is required in all Professional Education courses.		
EDUC 330	Mathematics for Elementary Teachers 1	3
EDUC 331	Mathematics for Elementary Teachers 2	3
EDUC 340	Science for Elementary Educators	3
EDUC 430	Mathematics Methods for Elementary Teachers	3
EDUC 350	Social Studies Content for Elementary Teachers	3
EDUC 440	Science Methods for Elementary Teachers	3
EDUC 450	Social Studies Methods for Elementary Teachers	3
EDUC 460	Literacy 1: Exploring & Developing Literacy Foundations	3
EDUC 461	Literacy 2: Reading Assessment & Instruction	3
EDUC 462	Literacy 3: Composing Texts	3
EDUC 304	Place-based and Emotionally Responsive Teaching	3
SPED 404	Special Education in Contemporary Society	3
SPED 460	Differentiation of Instruction	3
EDUC 408	Art Integration in the Elementary Classroom	3
EDUC 311	Field Experience & Technology Applications in Elementary Schools 1	2
EDUC 312	Field Experience & Technology Applications in Elementary Schools 2	3
EDUC 410	Clinical Experience in Elementary Schools/Residency 1	5
EDUC 411	Clinical Experience in Elementary Schools/Residency 2	10
EDUC 484	Residency/Technology Capstone in Elementary Education	2
Total Hours		**67**

SUGGESTED PLAN OF STUDY

First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
ENGL 101 (GEF 1)	3	GEF 5	3
CAHS 191	2	GEF 6	3
MATH 124 (GEF 3)	3	GEF 7	3
GEF 2	4	GEF 8	3
General Elective	3	General Elective	3
General Elective	1	General Elective	1
	16		**16**

Second Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
ENGL 102 (GEF 1)	3	EDUC 331	3
EDUC 330	3	SPED 404	3
GEF 8	3	GEF 4	3
GEF 8	3	General Elective	3
General Elective	3	General Elective	3
	15		**15**

Third Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
EDUC 311	2	EDUC 312	3
EDUC 460	3	EDUC 430	3
EDUC 340	3	EDUC 440	3
EDUC 350	3	EDUC 450	3
EDUC 408	3	EDUC 461	3
General Elective	3		
	17		**15**

Fourth Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
EDUC 410	5	EDUC 411	10
EDUC 462	3	EDUC 484	2
SPED 460	3		
EDUC 304	3		
	14		**12**

Total credit hours: 120

SUGGESTED PLAN OF STUDY FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS

Third Year

	Hours		Spring	Hours
EDUC 330	3		EDUC 331	3
EDUC 311	2		EDUC 312	3
EDUC 460	3		EDUC 461	3
EDUC 340	3		EDUC 440	3
EDUC 350	3		EDUC 450	3
EDUC 408	3		EDUC 430	3
	17		**18**	

Fourth Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
EDUC 410	5	EDUC 411	10
SPED 404 (GEF 4)	3	EDUC 484	2
SPED 460	3		

	EDUC 462	3
	EDUC 304	3
	17	**12**

Total credit hours: 64

Major Learning Outcomes

BA ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

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 2.5 grade point average in order to remain in the BA Elementary Education program. If the GPA falls below 2.5, 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 2.5 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 2.5 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.