College of Education

Elementary Education

Overview
Elementary education is one of the most rewarding careers in the world, as few others provide as much personal satisfaction — and challenge — as this coveted field. Educators make a difference in their students’ lives each and every day.

Kansas State University’s Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education is built on the mission of “preparing educators to be knowledgeable, ethical, caring decision-makers for a diverse and changing world.”

The program provides background and experiences in:
- Subjects taught in an elementary classroom – reading, language arts, social studies, science and math.
- Instructional strategies and delivery techniques used by elementary teachers.
- Techniques for planning, classroom management, diversity, discipline and assessment.
- Strategies to adjust instruction to meet the needs of all learners.

K-State’s program stands apart from the other 24 elementary education programs in Kansas and the nearly 5,000 institutions across the country that also offer teacher education programs. The American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, or AACTE, presented its 2012 Best Practice Award for Professional Ethics and Moral Dispositions in Teacher Education to Kansas State University’s College of Education.

Professional options

Careers
Students who major in elementary education are typically in demand in the workforce because they are graduates of a nationally recognized program. K-State’s Career and Employment Services has information and resources to help students successfully launch their careers.

The knowledge, skills and dispositions emphasized in the elementary curriculum are transferable to many careers:
- Training and development
- Human resources
- Sales
- Customer service
- Publishing and technical writing
- Consulting
- Nonprofits
- Athletic coach
- School counselor
- Community/junior college teacher
- Counselor
- Curriculum director or developer
- Reading specialist
- Researcher
- School administrator or director
- Special education teacher or coordinator
- State or federal agency staff
- Vocational technical school staff
- Youth or recreation agency staff

Job experience
Sequenced field experiences are built into the program to give students the opportunity to learn and practice teaching skills while supervised by experienced professionals. Classroom observations take place in the Early Field Experience course during the sophomore year. The Block B practicum during junior year and the Block C practicum during the senior year allow students to plan and teach multiple lessons. Student teaching takes place at the end of the program, and students assume responsibility for an elementary classroom under the guidance of a cooperating teacher, clinical instructor and college supervisor.

In 2011, the National Association for Professional Development Schools, or PDS, named K-State’s PDS partnership a premier program in the nation. The PDS partnership includes the College of Education, plus 20 schools in the Manhattan-Ogden, Geary County and Riley County school districts, along with school districts in Topeka and Johnson County. In 2010, the elementary education program was recognized by the Association of Teacher Educators as the 2010 Distinguished Program in Teacher Education, making it the top elementary education program in the nation.

The field experiences and student teaching are as rich and diverse as every child in class. Children associated with Fort Riley, English as second language learners, children with special needs, and children with every need and ability across the spectrum are enrolled in PDS partnership school districts across the state.

The College of Education encourages co-teaching. Early in the semester, the student teacher might serve as an assistant to the cooperating teacher and presents portions of lessons while the cooperating teacher remains primarily responsible for the teaching of the class. The student teacher also might work with individuals or small groups of students who need special or additional help. Or, for certain activities, the class might be divided between the two to reduce the teacher-pupil ratio. As the semester progresses the cooperating teacher will gradually give the student teacher more of the planning and teaching. Near the end of the semester, the student teacher will be primarily responsible for the teaching.

All school districts in the state of Kansas have military-connected children. Therefore, course content integrates strategies to prepare preservice teachers to better meet the academic, social and emotional needs of military-connected students. As part of our professional development schools partnerships, many of our preservice teachers are placed in military schools on Fort Riley while the majority are placed in neighboring schools districts with high concentrations of military-connected students.

The college recently joined two important national efforts, Operation Educate the Educators and the Military Child Education Coalition. Both provide resources for preservice teachers that strengthen key skills, build relationships and help preservice teachers become classroom-ready.

Points of pride

The American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education presented a Best Practice Award for Professional Ethics and Moral Dispositions in Teacher Education to Kansas State University’s College of Education. The National Association for Professional Development Schools named K-State a premier program in the nation. Students complete their field experiences and student teaching in area partner schools.

k-state.edu/admissions/academics
K-State’s College of Education graduates excel professionally in part because they are trained by extraordinary faculty within the context of programs that were founded on deeply held principles and a mission that holds true to our core. The combination of award-winning programs in classroom instruction and practical field experience opportunities assures students an exceptionally solid educational experience.

**Academics**

**Degree options**

Students earn a 125-credit bachelor’s degree in elementary education, which can be completed in four years with careful planning and the guidance of an advisor.

**Accreditation**

The elementary education program at K-State is accredited by the Kansas State Department of Education and the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education, or NCATE. The university is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Universities.

**Faculty**

To excel at the national level, our renowned faculty is engaged in both the classroom and scholarly activity. With their rich experience and expertise in specialized subject matter, elementary education faculty members bring quality instruction to well-equipped labs and classrooms, and create an environment that is challenging yet supportive for developing teachers.

Outside the classroom, the faculty has further enriched the profession by producing more than 20 books. In just the past two academic years, the faculty has written more than 40 book chapters, 100 journal articles and given more than 200 presentations.

**Advising**

Once students declare elementary education as their major, students are assigned an academic advisor in the college’s Center for Student and Professional Services. Together, the student and advisor will collaborate on issues such as degree requirements, admittance requirements and navigating the licensure process. The role of advising is to help each student set and achieve his or her goals.

**Licensure**

To teach in the Kansas public school system, elementary education majors must first meet state licensure standards, which are prescribed by the Kansas State Department of Education, or KSDE. Licensure requirements include the successful completion of the B.S. degree, along with the completion of a KSDE-approved teacher preparation program like K-State’s.

Next, they must pass a licensure test covering the content area and a test assessing teaching skills before applying for an elementary teaching license from KSDE. For more information, call the College of Education’s licensure officer at 785-532-5524.

**Activities**

To enrich students’ academic experience in the classroom, a number of activities are available — from honor societies to clubs and organizations to professional student chapters. The door is open to broaden every aspect of future teachers’ educational experience.

**Financial assistance**

**Scholarships**

Please check the College of Education website at coe.k-state.edu for the latest information on scholarships, or contact the college’s Center for Student and Professional Services at 785-532-5524. The majority of College of Education scholarships are for juniors and seniors in the teacher education program.

**Financial aid**

For information about financial aid, please contact the Office of Student Financial Assistance at 785-532-6420.

**Suggested coursework**

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<th>Block A</th>
<th>Block B Practicum</th>
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<tr>
<td>EDEL 200 Teaching Literacy: Grades 3-6</td>
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<td>EDEL 230 Teaching Social Studies: K-6</td>
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<td>EDEL 250 Teaching Math: K-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDEL 264 Teaching Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Learners</td>
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**Block C**

| EDEL 460 Block C Practicum |
| EDEL 461 Teaching Literacy: Grades 3-6 |
| EDEL 462 Teaching Social Studies: K-6 |
| EDEL 463 Teaching Math: K-6 |
| EDEL 464 Classroom Management and Discipline |

**Professional semester**

| EDEL 585 Teaching Internship in Elementary Schools |

**Area of concentration**

To provide additional depth to their preparation beyond general education, students take 15 credits from one of the following areas: English, mathematics, modern language, science, social science, special education or English as a second language.

**For more information about elementary education, contact:**

Center for Student and Professional Services
Kansas State University
13 Bluemont Hall
1114 Mid-Campus Dr. North
Manhattan, KS 66506
785-532-5524
csp@k-state.edu
coe.k-state.edu/departments/csp

**For more information about Kansas State University, contact:**

Office of Admissions
Kansas State University
119 Anderson Hall
919 Mid-Campus Dr. North
Manhattan, KS 66506-0102
1-800-432-8270 (toll free) or 785-532-6250
k-state@k-state.edu
k-state.edu/admissions

**Post-Graduation Statistics**

ksdegreestats.org
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