

## Elementary Education

Elementary education is a career in which you can find the satisfaction of helping children learn. You can work closely with other caring adults, become a leader in your field, be challenged by organizing information and communicating it to others, and contribute to the future of the world by educating tomorrow's leaders.

As an elementary teacher, you will be called upon to:

- Teach children reading, language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and other subjects.
- Adjust your teaching to challenge every child in your class to learn.
- Work with other educators to plan for the learning of children in your school.
- Share with parents and others what your students are learning and your commitment to teaching.

### Elementary education— is it for you?

To find out if a career in elementary education is a wise choice, you can do several things:

- Test your interest by working with children at a playground, library, camp, or church school. Volunteer to work with scouts, 4-H, or other community programs.
- Talk with your teachers and former teachers about the requirements and rewards of their positions.
- Read about teachers and teaching. Several popular novels and biographies tell a teacher's story. Check with a librarian.

- See if your school has a future teachers organization or a program for high school students to work as aides in elementary classrooms.
- Check with the university's Career and Employment Services office about current personnel needs in elementary education.
- Check with your counselor about scholarships or other financial assistance programs open to future educators.

### Career opportunities

Teachers prepared to work in elementary classrooms are needed. Employment opportunities are enhanced by willingness to consider teaching at several grade levels and by strong subject preparation.

In addition to elementary classroom teachers, most districts also employ art and music specialists prepared to work at the elementary level. Persons interested in teaching these subjects prepare at both the elementary and secondary levels.

Many other career opportunities exist for persons trained in elementary education:

- College teaching
- Counselor
- Curriculum director or developer
- Education publisher or editor
- Reading specialist
- Researcher
- School administrator or director
- Special education teacher
- State or federal agency staff
- Youth or recreation agency staff

### Support

K-State's College of Education offers an elementary education program that combines some of the best features of large and small schools. Because the college is large, it provides faculty qualified to teach specialized subject matter, well-equipped labs and studios, and activities to suit every interest.

Because it retains a small-school atmosphere, the college offers personalized advising, well-supervised field placements, and a fine placement service.

When you have a chance to visit the College of Education, you will want to ask about topics of special interest to you, such as:

- Academic assistance in basic skills
- Advising
- Career planning and placement
- Elementary science laboratory
- Honors program in education
- Instructional media center
- Computer lab for education students
- Organizations for students in education
- Scholarships for education students
- Teacher aide and teacher assistant programs

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## The program

Elementary education prepares you to work with children in kindergarten through sixth grade. Your studies will include three areas.

### General education

Courses in the humanities, social and behavioral sciences, mathematics, and biological, physical, and earth sciences will expand your world. A sound general education is especially important for elementary teachers, who are called upon to teach every subject to children.

### Area of concentration

In-depth preparation in one subject enables you to specialize. Or you may choose to concentrate in special education or English as a second language. Your teacher education advisor will help you decide which area of concentration is best for you.

### Professional education

The professional portion of your program will include courses in educational psychology, principles of education, instructional media, and the methods of teaching the many different subjects covered in elementary schools. Along with college classwork, you will observe and assist in the elementary schools, teach lessons you have planned, and discuss your experiences with other educators.

## Student teaching

Near the end of your program, you will student teach. In student teaching, you will gradually assume responsibility for an elementary class under the guidance of university and school district personnel.

Manhattan, Junction City, and Riley schools work with K-State's College of Education to provide field placements for students. Individuals may also student teach in Topeka, the Kansas City area, or southwest Kansas.

## Elementary education teacher licensure

The Kansas Board of Education prescribes the requirements for licensure as an elementary teacher in Kansas. K-State's College of Education has developed a program that meets licensure standards for elementary teachers in Kansas.

Information on licensure requirements of other states is available in the student services office, 13 Bluemont Hall.

The elementary education program at K-State is accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and the Kansas Board of Education. The university is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Universities.

## For more information about elementary education, contact:

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

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Manhattan, KS 66506-0102  
1-800-432-8270 (toll free) or  
785-532-6250  
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