

Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education

Essential Expertise

Teachers play an integral role in the intellectual and social development of children during their formative years, and have a substantial impact on their students' future prospects. Teachers provide the tools and the environment that help students develop into responsible adults.

The Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education at Governors State University empowers you to successfully begin your career as a classroom teacher for grades kindergarten through nine. The program is fully approved by the Illinois State Board of Education to prepare you for the Illinois Type 03 certificate.

Outstanding Preparation

Professional education courses provide a strong preparation in professional skills and dispositions. A firm foundation in general education courses expands your knowledge of elementary school curricula and your ability to understand students and their communities. At GSU, small class sizes guarantee that students get the attention they deserve and state-of-the-art educational technology prepares students to integrate computer technology into instruction. Middle grades endorsements are available in a number of subject areas.

GSU's innovative, high-quality program offers a balanced blend of classroom instruction and hands-on field experiences, leading to a capstone supervised student teaching experience. At GSU, you'll be prepared for an educational career where you continue to grow as a teacher—and consistently make a difference in the lives of your students.

Unlimited Opportunity

GSU offers a superior educational opportunity at an affordable tuition rate while maintaining the professional quality of its programs. GSU's outstanding faculty and real-world curriculum prepare graduates to meet the demands of the future.

Academic Advisor:

Cynthia Hutson
708.235.7304
chutson@govst.edu

SUCCESS BY DEGREES



1 University Parkway, University Park, IL 60484
708.534.4840 www.govst.edu/coe

fact

Employment opportunities for **elementary** and **middle school teachers** are expected to **grow** by **15 and 16 percent**, respectively, between 2008 and 2018.

Source: *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, 2010-2011 edition, U.S. Department of Labor



SUCCESS BY DEGREES

Program Requirements

After meeting the university admission requirements, students must meet the following requirements to continue in the Elementary Education program:

- be admitted to Governors State University and be in good academic standing;
- present transcripts showing a cumulative G.P.A. of 2.5 or higher in all undergraduate work attempted;
- present evidence of having passed the Basic Skills Test of the Illinois Certification Testing System;
- complete the ETS Proficiency Profile;
- earn a grade of "B" or better in the following two courses taken at Governors State University: EDUC320: Future of American Education and EDUC321: Effective Teaching and Laboratory**; and
- receive a positive recommendation from the Elementary Education faculty to continue in the program.

**Note: Candidates must pass the ICTS Basic Skills test before enrolling in EDUC320 and EDUC321.

All candidates for Illinois teacher certification at Governors State University are required to submit to an Adam Walsh fingerprint-based criminal background check prior to their initial field experience in the schools. For more information, consult your advisor.

Candidate Progress

The faculty monitors and evaluates candidate progress continually. The section Teacher Education and Certification in the GSU catalog provides a general description of the standards used to evaluate candidate progress. A more detailed statement of the standards and processes followed by the Elementary Education faculty is available in the Elementary Education Student Handbook, available at www.govst.edu/education.

Teacher Certification

This program is approved by the Illinois State Board of Education for recommendation of the Initial Elementary Certificate by entitlement. To be recommended for certification by Governors State University, candidates must complete 72-73 hours in general education and the professional education requirements in Elementary Education. General education courses may include both lower and upper-division course work. Candidates must earn a grade of "B" or better in ELED499: Student Teaching.

Candidates must meet other requirements for certification through approved programs listed in the Teacher Education and Certification section in the GSU catalog.

Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education

Candidates must also pass the Assessment of Professional Teaching of the Illinois Certification Testing System to be recommended for certification.

Middle School Endorsement

Requirements for the middle school endorsement are discussed in the section Teacher Education and Certification in the catalog (www.govst.edu/catalog).

Program Portfolio

The Program Portfolio is a selection of examples of candidate work (artifacts) that is organized according to the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards and the Standards for Certification in Elementary Education. Throughout the program, candidates choose artifacts to include in their portfolios, write reflections, and receive evaluations of their artifacts and reflections. At the conclusion of student teaching, candidates will have completed a portfolio that contains artifacts for each standard.

Admission to Student Teaching

All professional course work must be completed before enrolling in student teaching. For those student teaching in a content area at the middle-grades level, all endorsement requirements must also be completed.

To be admitted to student teaching, candidates must:

1. Complete all professional education requirements with a G.P.A. of 3.0 or higher in EDUC320 and EDUC321; and ELED302, ELED303, ELED460, ELED463, and ELED466;
2. complete the 69-73 hours of general education requirements with a G.P.A. of 2.75 or higher;
3. complete 100 clock-hours of pre-student teaching field experiences;
4. complete at least 18-19 hours in the teaching specialization with a G.P.A. of 2.75 or higher;
5. have completed all but nine credits in general education; and
6. receive a positive recommendation from the Elementary Education faculty.

An application certifying that the first six of these requirements have been met must be submitted to the coordinator of field experiences by January 31 for the following fall and spring semesters. Student teaching is not offered during the summer session. In addition, candidates must pass the ICTS Elementary Content Exam before student teaching.

Degree Requirements

Candidates must meet all university requirements for a bachelor's degree, except candidates must complete the 72-73 hour General Education Requirement for Teacher Certification (Initial Elementary Certificate) below instead of the University General Education Requirement. Candidates must also:

1. maintain a G.P.A. of 3.0 or higher in professional education courses (56-58 hours required);
2. maintain a G.P.A. of 2.75 or higher in all general education courses (72-73 hours required);
3. complete at least one three-hour course in non-Western or Third World cultures;
4. complete all course work at GSU within five calendar years;
5. maintain satisfactory candidate progress as defined in the Elementary Education Candidate Handbook; and
6. receive a positive recommendation from the Elementary Education faculty.

I. General Education Requirement for Teacher Certification, Initial Elementary Certificate (69-70 Hours)

Course work acceptable for meeting these requirements must be college level work and may not include remedial courses even if college credit is granted. Generally, this course work must be at the 100-level or higher and applicable toward a degree at the institution providing the instruction. Courses with grades below "C" will not be accepted toward the degree.

The following course work must include at least one three-hour course in non-western or third world cultures.

The following course work may be completed at the lower-division level:

Written Communication	6
Oral Communication	3
Mathematics for Elementary Teachers	6
Mathematics selective (select from courses equivalent to MATH330, MATH340, MATH 390, MATH465, LAS440).....	3
Biological, Physical Science, and Earth Science (including 3 hours of biology, a 3 hour physical science course (chemistry or physics), 3 hours of earth/space science (astronomy, geology, or meteorology) and a 1 hour lab course with one of these).....	10
Survey of American History	3
Humanities.....	3
Fine Arts	3
Literature	3
U.S. Government	3
Psychology	3
World or Cultural Geography.....	3
Health/Nutrition	2
Teaching Specialization.....	18-19
(maximum of 9 hours of lower-division)	

Select one of the teaching specializations listed in the Teaching Specializations section (see Section IV).

At least nine specialization hours must be in upper-division courses.

II. Professional Education Courses (61-62 Hours)

The following courses may be taken at the lower-division level:

EDUC	310	Foundations of Education	3
EDUC	330	Educational Psychology: Child Growth and Development.....	3
SPED	510	Survey of Students with Exceptionalities	3

The following courses must be taken at the upper-division level:

EDCP	500	Introduction to Educational Technology.....	3
EDUC	320	Future of American Education.....	3
EDUC	321	Effective Teaching and Laboratory	4
EDUC	440	Educational Psychology in Action	3
ELED	301	Teaching Laboratory I.....	1
ELED	302	Teaching Language Arts in Elementary Schools	3
ELED	303	Developmental Reading in Elementary Schools	3
ELED	401	Teaching Laboratory II.....	1
ELED	410	Teaching the Creative Arts,p-5.....	3
ELED	430	Teaching Elementary Health and Physical Education.....	3
ELED	450	Corrective Reading.....	3
ELED	460	Teaching Science in Elementary Schools.....	3
ELED	463	Teaching Mathematics in Elementary Schools.....	3
ELED	466	Teaching Social Studies in Elementary Schools	3
ELED	499	Student Teaching	12

Choose one of the following four 3 hour professional education selectives:

EDEC	460	Integrating Instruction in Early Childhood (3)
EDUC	442	Early Adolescent Educational Psychology (3)
EDUC	530	Multicultural Children's Literature (3)
ELED	500	Teaching in the Inclusive Classroom (3)

Additional credits will be required for students seeking middle-grades endorsement (see your advisor).

III. Total - 127-129 Hours

IV. Teaching Specializations

In consultation with a program advisor, candidates will select at least 18 hours (except for biology which may require 19) of course work within one of the following teaching specializations. At least nine hours must carry upper-division credit.

General Science

BIOL	306	Biological Science Foundations II (3)
BIOL	307	Biological Science Foundations Laboratory (1)
CHEM	306	Chemical Science Foundations I (3)
CHEM	307	Chemical Science Foundations Laboratory (1)
CHEM	308	Chemical Science Foundations II (3)
		(if CHEM 306 has been used to satisfy a General Education requirement.)
PHYS	352	Intermediate Physics I (3)
PHYS	353	Intermediate Physics I Laboratory (1)

SUCCESS BY DEGREES

- PHYS 362 Intermediate Physics II (3)
and PHYS 363 Intermediate Physics II
Laboratory (1)
(if PHYS 352 and PHYS 353 have been used
to satisfy a General Education requirement.)
- PHYS 305 Earth and Space Science (3)
- LAS 430 Investigations in Scientific Thought (3)
- Elective Science course(s) (3-4)
- Total - 18 Hours**

Biology

- BIOL 305 Biological Science Foundations I (3)
- BIOL 306 Biological Science Foundations II (3)
- BIOL 316 Plant Diversity (2)
- BIOL 317 Plant Diversity Laboratory (1)
- BIOL 320 Animal Diversity (2)
- BIOL 321 Animal Diversity Laboratory (1)
- LAS 430 Investigations in Scientific Thought (3)

Select at least three hours from the following:

- BIOL 308 Human Evolution (3)
- BIOL 312 Human Genetics: Concepts and Technology
(3)
- BIOL 322 Ecology (3)
- BIOL 323 Ecology Laboratory (1)
- BIOL 430 Microbiology (3)
- BIOL 431 Microbiology Laboratory (1)
- Total - 18 - 19 Hours**

English

American Literature (3 Hours)

- ENGL 321 American Literature I (3)
- ENGL 322 American Literature II (3)

English Literature (3 Hours)

- ENGL 311 English Literature I (3)
- ENGL 312 English Literature II (3)

Multicultural Literature (3 Hours)

- ENGL 512 Advanced Survey of Black Literature (3)
- ENGL 521 Comparative Latin American Literature (3)
- ENGL 541 Chinese Literature and Culture (3)
- ENGL 556 Native American Literature (3)
- ENGL 575 The Short Story: Crossing Cultures (3)

Advanced Composition (3 Hours)

- ENGL 400 Advanced Composition (3)

Two of the following* (6 Hours)

- ENGL 315 Studies in Mythology (3)
- ENGL 330 Studies in Literature (3)
- ENGL 420 Modern American Poetry: Voices and Visions
(3)
- ENGL 542 Literary Criticism (3)
- ENGL 551 Shakespeare's Plays* (3)
- ENGL 560 Philosophical Themes in Contemporary
Literature (3)

Total - 18 Hours

* Those candidates interested in earning a Middle Grades

Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education

Endorsement must select ENGL551 as one of their choices
from this course group.

History

- LAS 410 Investigations in the Social Sciences (3)

U.S. History (6 Hours)

- HIST 311 U.S. History I (3)
- HIST 312 U.S. History II (3)

European History (3 Hours)

- HIST 565 Modern European History (3)
- HIST 567 Russia in the Twentieth Century (3)

Non-Western History (3 Hours)

- HIST 505 Modern African History (3)
- HIST 530 Modern Middle Eastern History (3)
- HIST 534 Modern Chinese History (3)
- HIST 547 Latin American History (3)

Select one of the following:

- HIST 310 American Economic History (3)
- HIST 510 Ascent of Man (3)
- HIST 520 American Urban History (3)
- HIST 540 Black Experience in the U.S. (3)

Total - 18 Hours

Mathematics

Students planning to teach mathematics at the junior high
level should consult with an advisor.

- MATH 325 College Algebra (3)
- MATH 330 Geometry (3)
- MATH 390 Calculus I (4)
- or
- MATH 355 Applied Calculus (3)
- LAS 440 Investigations in Mathematical Thought (3)
- STAT 468 Statistics (3)
- or
- STAT 520 Statistical Methods (3)

Select from the following to total 18 hours:

- MATH 340 Discrete Mathematics (3)
- MATH 391 Calculus II (4)
- MATH 465 Number Theory (3)
- Computer Programming (no more than three semester
hours) CPSC 320, 330, or 342 (3)

Total - 18 Hours

Social Science

- GEOG 447 Human Geography (3)
- ECON 302 Macroeconomics (3)
- HIST 311 U.S. History I (3)
- HIST 312 U.S. History II (3)

*Select 6 hours from the following, including at most one
3-hour history course:*

- ANTH 310 Trends in Cross-Cultural Analysis (3)
- HIST 505 Modern African History (3)
- HIST 540 Black Experience in the U.S. (3)
- HIST 547 Latin American History (3)
- HIST 310 U.S. Economic History (3)
- POLS 301 Principles of Political Science (3)
- SOC 301 Studies in American Society (3)

Total - 18 Hours

Governors State University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of
the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

This information is for reference only. For complete degree
information, please refer to the current approved Governors State University
catalog online at www.govst.edu/catalog.