

Elementary Education

at Benedictine University

Candidates seeking a teaching career must have a sincere desire to teach, show intellectual promise and display personal, professional and academic characteristics indicative of competent teachers.

The School of Education's major goal, according to its conceptual framework, is to create **effective practitioners** who are committed to scholarship, lifelong inquiry, leadership and social responsibility. These enduring outcomes are developed and nurtured through the curriculum. Educators develop **scholarship** by acquiring a breadth and depth of knowledge in the field. As scholars, they develop **lifelong inquiry** by immersing themselves in a process of on-going questioning and reflection that results in informed thinking and decision-making. They assume **leadership** roles in a variety of venues where they can affect change and improve practice. Their leadership is guided by a sense of **social responsibility** to create fair and equitable environments that support and enhance learning in order to maximize each individual's potential.

Advantages of studying elementary education at Benedictine

- Personal attention and guidance provided by skilled academic advisors.
- A 13:1 student-to-faculty ratio.
- The career flexibility made possible by a liberal arts degree.
- The opportunity to gain experience through off campus preclinicals and a 16-week student teaching experience under the guidance of certified professionals.
- Integration of technology into coursework.
- Quality instruction from experienced faculty who have worked extensively in both private and public schools.
- Advantage of job placement aid through the Career Development office.
- Certification as a teacher in Illinois.

What are the requirements for elementary education?

The student prepares for a degree in elementary education that leads to an Illinois teaching certificate by completing courses that satisfy general education and professional education requirements along with an 18 semester-hour concentration in art, language arts, mathematics, computer science, science (biology, chemistry or physics), history, social science or Spanish. This concentration satisfies the subject area requirements for a middle-grade endorsement. Students also receive a solid foundation in methodologies through the following experiences:

- Preclinicals: experiences which involve observing and teaching under a professional teacher in an off-campus classroom setting.
- Micro-teaching: an opportunity to participate in and evaluate various teaching activities.
- Student Teaching: a full semester of teaching under professional guidance.

As candidates progress through their program, they will develop an understanding of the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards, the Language Arts Standards for All Illinois Teachers, the Technology Standards for All Illinois Teachers and the Content-Area Standards for Educators. In addition to successful completion of their coursework, they will also develop a professional portfolio that demonstrates their growth in teaching and service to education as well as their understanding of the Illinois standards. Similarly, technology will be an integral part of their development through the use of LiveText as a part of their coursework along with the preparation of their portfolio. Their preparedness to teach will also be demonstrated through passage of the Illinois Certification Testing System's (ICTS) Basic Skills Test, Content-Area Test and Assessment of Professional Teaching Test.

What does elementary certification at Benedictine offer?

The program provides students with opportunities to develop strong interpersonal skills, effective communication practices and a dedicated commitment to children in an atmosphere of reflection and community.

Recommended Program

Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education

FRESHMAN ***

Writing Colloquium	3
Quantitative Skills (MATH S112)	4
Natural Science core elective	3
Religious Studies core elective*	3
Natural Science core elective with Lab	4
	17

Research Writing	3
Speech Communication	3
English/Literature core elective*	3
Natural Science core elective	3
Survey of the Exceptional Child	3
	15

JUNIOR

Reading and Language Arts	3
Methods of Math-Elementary (35-hour preclinical)	3
Methods of Social Science-Elementary	3
Philosophy core elective*	3
Disciplinary Emphasis	3
	15

Diagnostic/Corrective Reading (35-hour preclinical)	3
Methods of Science-Elementary	3
Cultural Heritage (HUMN 250)	3
Measurement and Evaluation	3
American History	3
Disciplinary Emphasis	3
	18

SOPHOMORE

History and Philosophy of Education/ Preclinical (35-hour preclinical)	4
Technology for Teachers	3
Natural Science core elective	3
Music/Fine Arts core elective*	3
Cultural Heritage (HUMN 220, 230 or 240)	3
	16

Educational Psychology	3
Economics	3
American Government	3
Wellness	2
Cultural Heritage (HUMN 220, 230 or 240)	3
Mathematics (MATH 222)	4
	18

SENIOR

Professional Elective (major)**	3
Disciplinary Emphasis	3
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Disciplinary Emphasis	3
	15

Student Teaching	12
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Completion of degree requires a minimum of 120 semester-hours.

Certification requires the above program, including an 18 semester-hour disciplinary emphasis.

**One course should be selected to satisfy a Multicultural/Non-Western culture requirement.*

***For course options, check with your advisor.*

****Programs in education require successful completion of state certification exams. The Basic Skills Exam must be successfully passed prior to admission into the Teacher Education Program. This exam can be taken during the freshman year.*