

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION – MAJOR STEPS

Is teaching children in elementary school the career for you?

Is teaching elementary school children the field for you?

If you are interested in working with children in a teaching and learning environment, then elementary education may be the field for you. Typically elementary teachers are responsible for a classroom of 18-30 students.

Teachers develop a curriculum based on school, district and state standards. In addition, teachers assess student's progress. Besides the



Teachers make a difference in the lives of children every day

daily contact with students, teachers meet with family members to discuss their student's progress. On a regular basis teachers meet with teaching staff, educational specialists and school volunteers to discuss school issues or

the needs of individual students.

Typically elementary teachers are off during the summer but most teachers use this time to take classes and participate in professional development. To teach in public schools requires a minimum of a baccalaureate degree. To be licensed by the state, public teachers are required to have earned a teacher certification and to have successfully completed the WEST-E Exam.

Recommended classes while attending high school:

- Advanced Algebra
- Develop good technology skills
- Four years of English
- Develop strong writing and speaking skills
- Two to three years of science
- Two or more years of a world language
- Work with children in a volunteer or paid position

Work with your faculty advisor

Your faculty advisor can be an invaluable resource for you. A faculty advisor can provide you with advice about class selection and sequencing, internships and the differences between baccalaureate programs in Elementary

Education. To request an advisor, email edplanning@highline.edu. or stop by the Educational Planning and Advising Center (EPAC) in Building 6.

EPAC drop-in hours are as follows: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday & Tuesday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday & Thursday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday. Thursdays we are closed from 2-3 p.m.

How can you prepare for elementary teaching while attending Highline?

In general, you will complete the Associate of Arts to transfer into a baccalaureate program. While attending Highline, consider completing the following classes:

Writing 101 and 105
Speech 213
Psychology 100
Math 107, 111 or 180*
Anthropology 202
A U.S History class
A Geography class
Two Lab Science classes

PE 160 (CPR/First Aid can be helpful)

Computer skills courses
Education 112*



Education 140*

Choose one:

Education 110

Education 119*

Education 210*

Education 145/115/250*

Admission to most education programs will require a cumulative GPA of a 2.75 or higher and successful completion of the WEST-B.
<http://www.west.nesinc.com/>

*Depends on the transfer college that you plan to attend. Talk to an advisor before selecting your classes.

“Ask someone what they remember from school and chances are that their memories will be of some special teacher...”
Kathy Megyeri

Washington Public Colleges and Universities Offering Elementary Education Programs

Websites begin with

<https://www>

Central Washington U.

cwu.edu/~cert/index.html

Eastern Washington U.

ewu.edu/x647.vml

Western Washington U.

wce.wvu.edu/

***U. of Washington Seattle**

depts.washington.edu/coe/index.html

***U. of Washington Bothell**

uwb.edu/education/

***U. of Washington Tacoma**

tacoma.washington.edu/education

Washington State U.

Futurestudents.wsu.edu/academics/fos.study.asp?ID=EDUC

***Evergreen State College**

evergreen.edu/mit/

* University/college offers Elementary Education only

Washington Private Colleges and Universities Offering Elementary Education Programs

Antioch University

Antiochsea.edu/acacademics/education/index.html

City University

cityu.edu/soe_so_e_ud_baed.htm

Gonzaga University

robertspitzer.com/Academics/College-and-Schools/School-of-Education/

Heritage University

heritage.edu

Northwest University

northwestu.edu/

Pacific Lutheran University

plu.edu/%7Eeduc/home.html

Saint Martin's University

stmartin.edu

Seattle University

seattleu.edu/

Seattle Pacific University

spu.edu/depts/soe/

Trinity Lutheran College

tlc.edu/elementary-education

University of Puget Sound

ups.edu/education.xml

Walla Walla College

www.edu/

Whitworth University

whitworth.edu/Academic/Department/Education/Index.asp

Employment for Elementary Teachers

According to the Washington Occupational Information System (WOIS), employment in this field is expected to grow 7.9% from 2004 to 2009 which is about as fast as the average for all occupations. (2007). Nationally, the number of jobs for elementary teachers is expected to grow faster than average from 2009 through the year 2014.

Schools need bi-lingual teachers so taking classes to learn another language will improve your opportunities for employment.

You can also be more competitive for employment and advancement by focusing on some of the high need subject areas. Currently there is a strong need for



elementary teachers prepared in the following disciplines: ESL and Special Education. Significant coursework in the Science and Math disciplines can be helpful in employment too.

Employment is enhanced if you are willing to teach in an inner city or rural area.

Private schools do not always require a degree or teaching certification. Schools affiliated with a particular religion may require a background in a particular faith.

Baccalaureate degrees vs. Post-Baccalaureate degrees

You can pursue your teaching credentials as part of your bachelor's degree or as a post-baccalaureate education certification. It is important to know that some schools only offer their Elementary Education programs to students who have already completed their Bachelor's

degree. If you choose to attend a post-baccalaureate education program, your undergraduate major will not be Elementary Education but another academic major. The three campuses of the University of Washington (Seattle, Bothell and Tacoma)

offer their Elementary Education program only to students who have completed a BA or BS.

The Evergreen State College is another example of a school offering Elementary Education only as a post-baccalaureate degree.

**"I can't imagine a profession that is more challenging, stimulating or rewarding. I don't know of a job that requires so many different intelligences."
Peter Horn**

Salary and Benefits for Elementary Education Teachers

In Washington, the average entry level wage for K-8 teachers is \$36,139 and half of all elementary teachers earn between \$38,923 and \$46,860 per year. (WOIS) Teachers who earn the most salary have earned advanced degrees. By working during the summer or after school programs, teachers can enhance their annual wages.

Most public teachers receive medical, life insurance and retirement benefits. Teachers frequently are members of professional associations. Salaries for teachers are generally based on the number of years you have taught and the number of classes you have completed beyond the initial Bachelor's degree. check [http://](http://www.aft.org/research/salary/home.htm)

www.aft.org/research/salary/home.htm for salary details.



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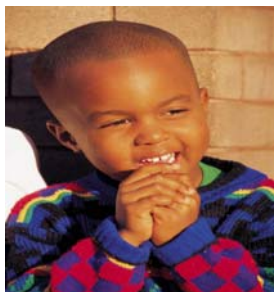
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Every effort has been made to provide accurate and timely information for this publication but students should seek information directly from the universities that they are interested in attending.



Other resources for elementary education

WEB Resources

*OSPI (Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction — Washington)

<http://www.K12.wa.us/>

*National Center for Education Information

<http://ncei.com>

*Washington Education Association

<http://www.wa.nea.org>

*National Science Teachers Association

<http://nsta.org>

*teachwashington.org

*International Literacy

<http://www.reading.org/>

*English as Second Language

<http://www.siuc.edu/~cesl/index.html>

Music Teachers National Association

<http://www.mtna.org>

National Council of Teachers of Mathematics

<http://www.nctm.org>

Washington Federation of Teachers

<http://wa.aft.org/>

<http://www.cec.sped.org//AM/Template.cfm?>

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(Exceptional Children)

Books

Careers for Kids at Heart and other who Adore Children by Marjorie Eberts and Margaret Gisner (2006)

Employment Opportunities in Education: How to Secure Your Career by Machado and Reynolds (2006)