Teachers change lives by opening new worlds for students and inspiring them to reach their goals. An early childhood education is an educational specialty designed to prepare students to work with children and their families in various settings from birth through third grade. An elementary education prepares individuals who are interested in a teaching career in a public or private school setting from kindergarten through the sixth grade. Western's teaching preparation focuses on current and innovative teaching theories including the implementation of a service learning project, technology inclusion, and project-based learning. The education program also provides the introduction to many important skills and elements of the teaching profession. The development and understanding of which are essential for future success such as: classroom management, special education, literacy for children, lesson design, educational psychology, and elementary science and math preparation. The students experience hands-on what it means to be a **preschool and/or elementary school** teacher because the program provides them the opportunity to participate in preschool and/or public school classroom activities as a practicum student. These experiences have a four-pronged focus: they introduce theories and pedagogical skills that are learned during classes are applied and reinforced by the teachers, they give students real-world teaching practices, they help students decide about their future teaching careers, and they lay the academic foundation needed before entering a bachelor's degree program. Students wanting to enter the teaching field must obtain at least a bachelor's degree in education. Therefore, Western's education program has specific pathways that will create a seamless transfer to any university in the country upon the successful completion of the associate degree requirements.

Degree Requirements

Freshman Year - Fall Semester

- Western Experience   Credits: 1
- ENGL 1010 - English Composition I   Credits: 3
- EDFD 1101 - Intro to Education   Credits: 3
- Oral Communication   Credits: 3
- MATH 1100 - Number & Operations for Elementary
  School Teachers   Credits: 3
- General Elective   Credits: 1   *Subtotal: 14*

Freshman Year - Fall Semester Notes: In addition to ENGL 1010, students may be required to also take ENGL 1011 (2 credits) due to placement, adding 2 additional credits to their graduation total. Students transferring to Utah schools must take MATH 1100, MATH 1105, and MATH 1400 in the same academic year. Students transferring to the University of Wyoming may substitute MATH 1400 and Statistics (STAT 2050 or STAT 2070) for MATH 1100 and MATH 1105.

Freshman Year - Spring Semester

- BIOL 1003 - Current Issues in Biology   Credits: 4
- English Critical Thinking   Credits: 3
- MATH 1105 - Data, Probability, and Algebra
  for Elementary School Teachers   Credits: 3
- EDFD 2020 - Foundations of Education   Credits: 3
- EDCI 2440 - Classroom Management   Credits: 2
- General Elective   Credits: 1   *Subtotal: 16*

Sophomore Year - Fall Semester

- EDEC 1020 - Introduction to Early Childhood Education   Credits: 3
- EDFD 2100 - Educational Psychology   Credits: 3
- ENGL 2340 - Native American Culture and Literature   Credits: 3
- ITEC 2360 - Teaching With Technology   Credits: 3
- Creative Expression Elective   Credits: 3   *Subtotal: 15*

Sophomore Year - Fall Semester Notes: Students transferring to the University of Wyoming should replace ENGL 2340 with ENGL 2250. Students transferring outside of Wyoming should replace ENGL 2340 with PSYC 1000.

Sophomore Year - Spring Semester

- PHYS 1050 - Concepts of Physics   Credits: 4
- Human Societies and the Individual   Credits: 3
- EDUC 2100 - Practicum in Teaching   Credits: 2
- EDEL 2280 - Literature for Children   Credits: 3
- EDEX 2484 - Introduction to Special Education   Credits: 3   *Subtotal: 15*

Sophomore Year - Spring Semester Notes: Students transferring to University of Wyoming should replace Human Societies and the Individual with POLS 1000. All education majors must complete a background check during their first semester in the program by Week 8 (midterms) in order to continue in the education program.

Total Credit Hours: 60

Students transferring to Utah schools must take MATH 1100, MATH 1105, and MATH 1400 in the same academic year.

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