

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

TEACHER EDUCATION



ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

The Elementary Education program at the University of Nebraska at Kearney is a premier undergraduate program that will prepare students to work with children through their elementary school years. UNK's Elementary Education students get to interact in classrooms early and often. UNK's close partnership with Kearney and area schools gives students numerous opportunities to interact in both early practicums and student-teaching experiences. UNK knows the value of hands-on learning and guides students in these field experiences and throughout their college career to develop quality educators who make a difference in the lives of students.

Important Information

Praxis: The Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators Tests are required for certification in Nebraska and are part of all undergraduate education programs at UNK. The Praxis Subject Assessments are also required for certification in Nebraska.

AETP: Nebraska's Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program provides forgivable loans to eligible students who are working toward initial certification.

Student-Teaching: Arrangements are made for students who qualify to complete their student-teaching requirement in schools located in Nebraska and other states. Most pre-student-teaching and student-teaching field experiences take place in schools that are members of UNK Network of Partner Schools. UNK teacher candidates will complete 16 weeks (12 credit hours) of all-day student teaching. Some teacher candidates who pursue more than one endorsement will be required to complete more hours.

Student profile

Haley Placke is a senior from Johnstown, Colorado, who is finishing her student teaching.

"Teaching has been my greatest passion throughout

my entire life. I have wanted to be a teacher since I was 6 or 7 years old. At that time, playing 'teacher' was all I ever did; I even created my own class rosters and lessons as an elementary student," she said.

"As a student who has always wanted to be a teacher, the education program at UNK stood out in my mind. I had heard several wonderful comments about this program at UNK, making it a very easy decision for me to attend UNK to pursue my dream of becoming a teacher. UNK has exceeded my expectations, and I highly recommend this program for anyone seeking a degree in education," she said.

Placke especially likes the professors in the College of Education who made it a priority to get to know all the students. "Not only did they make their classes more personal, but class was always exciting and engaging, and we all learned through discussion and participation," Placke said.

After graduation Placke is moving to North Platte where she has accepted a second grade teaching position. "My studies have helped me in numerous ways thus far in my student teaching, and will continue to help me in my future career. I am greatly awaiting to begin my time as a second grade teacher, and I cannot wait to see what the future holds."



HALEY PLACKE

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION TEACHING FIELD ENDORSEMENT

FOUR YEAR CLASS SCHEDULE: BACHELOR OF ARTS IN EDUCATION

The schedule is a guideline for progress toward a degree. Consult with your academic adviser.

<p>Semester 1 (16 credits)</p> <p>ENG 102 Academic Writing/Research SPCH 100 Fundamentals of Speech TE 100GS Teaching in a Democratic Society BIO 103 General Biology/Lab Elective</p>	<p>Semester 2 (15 credits)</p> <p>Approved HISTGS Course PE 150GS Healthy, Wealthy and Wise GS Portal ART 100GS Art Structure PSCI 110GS Introduction to American Politics</p>
<p>Semester 3 (16 credits)</p> <p>MATH 104 Concepts in Math/Statistics PHYS 100GS Physical Science/Lab TE 204 Typical/Atypical Growth and Development TE 206 Instructional Technology and the Preservice Teacher PE 226 Elementary School Health Teaching PE 340 Non-Rhythmic Physical Education</p>	<p>Semester 4 (16 credits)</p> <p>Take any approved ECON, PSY, SOC, or GEOG GS Take any approved ENG Literature GS ENG 425 Children’s Literature MUS 330 Music Methods PE 361 Integrating Movement/Dance Elective</p>
<p>Semester 5 (14.5 credits)</p> <p>GS Capstone Course – Any 388 MATH 230GS Math for El. Teachers I TE 311 Math Methods I TE 313 Field Experience: Math TE 318 Management and Assessment TESE 323 Partnerships with Families MATH 330GS Math for El. Teachers II</p>	<p>Semester 6 (15 credits)</p> <p>ART 360 Elementary Art Methods TE 331 Intermediate Literacy TE 351 Reading in the Content Area TE 352 Elementary Social Studies Methods TE 353 Elementary Science Methods TE 354 Field Experiences in El. School Science/Social Studies/Content Area Reading</p>
<p>Semester 7 (15.5 credits)</p> <p>TE 312 Math Methods II TE 313 Field Experience: Math TE 314 Phonics and Word Study TE 315 Literacy Assessment TE 316 Primary Grades Literacy TE 317 Field Experience: Literacy TE 411 Inclusive Practices PreK-8 Elective</p>	<p>Semester 8 (12 credits)</p> <p>TE 400 Student Teaching</p>

Traits for success

A candidate in this degree must possess a love for teaching, and for continued learning; have classroom regulation skills, high standards for students, able to work well in a team, creativity and imagination, able to give clear directions, be a well-rounded communicator, be knowledgeable of the subject matter, engaging and enthusiastic, adaptable, organized, prepared, warm and caring.

Career opportunities

When you complete this program you will be qualified to teach in public or private elementary school classrooms.

Scholarships:

- Louise Adams Scholarship Fund
- Florence E. Davis Brainard Memorial Fund
- Grace Lundeen Frandsen Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Laura and Fred Knoontz Elementary Education Scholarship Fund
- Dr. Wayne Marshall Scholarship Fund
- Joann and Earl R. Rademacher Scholarship Fund
- Walter A. and Alice V. Rochwell Scholarship fund
- More at http://www.unk.edu/offices/financial_aid/continuing-student-scholarships.php

Clubs and Organizations:

- ELED Club
- Student Education Association of Nebraska
- Special Olympics College- UNK
- Kappa Delta Pi- Educational Honor Society

For more information, contact:

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ALUMNI PROFILE – BRETT KLUEVER

“UNK was the perfect-sized fit for me,” said Brett Kluever, a 2009 graduate from Union, Iowa.

Kluever decided that he wanted to become an elementary teacher while in high school after he completed a project for the National Honor Society running a basketball camp for third and fourth grade students.

While at UNK Kluever was able to student-teach in the community. “I was an ‘America Reads’ tutor at Central Elementary in Kearney. This was a place where

I could hone my teaching skills. I can’t thank the staff I worked with enough for their willingness to let me into their classrooms. I learned so much from them, and their students. Eventually I even student-taught there. By the time I was done, I had worked in most grade levels and knew most of the students in the building,” he said.

“The opportunities that I had, and the relationships I built at UNK, helped shape me into the teacher I am today,” Kluever said. He is currently working toward his master’s degree in instructional technology at UNK.