

# COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

# TEACHER EDUCATION



## MIDDLE GRADES Bachelor of Science

UNK's teacher education department has been the backbone of the educational system since its beginning as Nebraska State Normal School in 1905. This extensive history of educating Nebraska's educators brings an unmatched reputation and legacy that our graduates take with them throughout their careers. The Middle Grades bachelor of science program at the University of Nebraska at Kearney is a premier undergraduate program that will prepare students to work with students in middle school. UNK students get in the classroom early and often, and our close partnership with Kearney and area schools gives students numerous opportunities to interact in both early practicums and student teaching experiences. We know the value of hands-on learning and we are here to guide you in these field experiences.

### 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 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

"I have a long history of teachers in my family. I tried to ignore the gut feeling that I should pursue a career in teaching and try something else, but eventually I realized it was

where I was meant to be. Being in the classroom feels like home and there is nowhere I would rather be all day than spending it with students," said Carrie Hanson, a senior from Kearney.

"The biggest lesson I've learned throughout my time at UNK is the importance of teacher and student relationships. All through college, the teachers stress the importance of building positive relationships with your students. It isn't until you are out student-teaching that you fully realize how important this is. Also, I didn't realize it at the time, but our professors were constantly modeling this technique. Each professor took time to get to know me individually which pushed me to work harder in their classroom," she said.

Hanson's favorite part about the middle level education program was the staff. She said they want to teach students how to be engaging teachers and provide ample opportunity to practice teaching skills.

After Hanson graduates in 2017 she will begin her career at Aurora Middle School as eighth grade science teacher. "UNK prepares you for every aspect of the classroom which gives people an advantage when looking for a job. After almost completing my student teaching, I feel UNK has prepared me the best they could to be out in the real world."



**CARRIE  
HANSON**

**MIDDLE GRADES TEACHING FIELD ENDORSEMENT**

**FOUR YEAR CLASS SCHEDULE: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION**

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

<p><b>Semester 1 (15 credits)</b>                  ENG 102GS Academic Writing/ Research                  SPCH 100GS Fundamentals of Speech                  TE 100GS Teaching in a Democratic Society                  PSCI 110GS Introduction to American Politics                  Approved HIST GS course</p>	<p><b>Semester 2 (15 credits)</b>                  BIOL 103GS General Biology                  PE 150GS Healthy, Wealthy and Wise Portal Course - Any 188GS                  ART 100GS Art Structure Elective (2 hours)</p>
<p><b>Semester 3 (15 credits)</b>                  MATH 102GS or MATH 103GS                  PHYS 100GS Physical Science/Lab                  TE 204 Typical/Atypical Growth and Development                  TE 206 Instructional Technology/ Preservice Teacher                  TESE 323 Partnerships with Families</p>	<p><b>Semester 4 (16 credits)</b>                  Take any approved ECON, PSY, SOC, or GEOG GS course                  Take any approved ENG Literature GS course                  Academic Concentration (10 Hours)</p>
<p><b>Semester 5 (15 credits)</b>                  GS Capstone Course – Any 388                  TE 331 Intermediate Literacy                  Academic Concentration (9 Hours)</p>	<p><b>Semester 6 (15 credits)</b>                  TE 471 History/Philosophy of Middle School                  TE 472 Management and Assessment in Middle Level Classrooms                  TE 473 Field Experience in Middle Level Classrooms                  Academic Concentration (9 Hours)</p>
<p><b>Semester 7 (17 credits)</b>                  Methods Courses that match Academic Concentrations X2                  Academic Concentration (8 Hours)                  TE 411 Inclusive Practices for Students with Exceptionalities in PreK-8 Classrooms</p>	<p><b>Semester 8 (12 credits)</b>                  TE 400 Student Teaching</p>

**Teaching may be right for you if you have...**

- The ability to work effectively with others
- A willingness to share academic competence
- A passion for working with children or youth

**Traits for Success:**

- Love for teaching
- Love for continued learning
- Sets high standards for students
- Able to give concise directions and set clear objectives
- Creative and imaginative
- Knowledgeable of the course material
- Engaging and enthusiastic
- Organized and prepared
- Warm and caring

**Career opportunities:**

Teacher in public or private middle school classrooms

**Scholarships:**

- Louise and Mildred Adams Educational Scholarship
- Isabel M. Bennett Scholarship
- Collison Family Scholarship Fund
- Clyde and Gertrude Cox Scholarship fund
- Delta Kappa Gamma Grants-in-aid
- Major General Charles Elsenhart Scholarship
- Dr. Leona Mae Failor Scholarship
- Henning Family Education Scholarship
- More at [http://www.unk.edu/offices/financial\\_aid/continuing-student-scholarships.php](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 – Jon Kuecker**

Jon Kuecker graduated in 2013 with a bachelor of arts in education with a middle grades field endorsement and emphasis in mathematics and social sciences. While finishing his degree, he student-taught at Sunrise Middle School in Kearney. “Classes and student teaching helped me prepare to be the teacher I am today. I owe my supervisors and professors everything. Everyone is still willing to help in any way they can,” Kuecker said.

He was hired at Wood River Rural Schools as a sixth and ninth grade math teacher in 2014 and just recently applied for a master’s program at UNK. “I wasn’t that great of a student when I was younger. When math started to click for me and I started teaching others, it helped mold me into a better student. I found the joy in watching a topic click for someone I was teaching when it hadn’t clicked for them in the past,” he said.