To get started, contact us at bartlingseg@unk.edu or 308.865.8513

If you have…

• The ability to work effectively with others
• A willingness to share academic competence
• A passion for working with children or youth
• A belief in the American work ethic

Then teaching is the right profession for you!
Welcome

UNK’s teacher education department has been the backbone of the educational system since its beginning as Nebraska State Normal School in 1905. Changes are, if you were educated in Nebraska, your teachers, coaches, principals or superintendent have education credentials from UNK. This 112-year history educating Nebraska’s educators brings an unmatched reputation and legacy that our graduates take with them to their schools and throughout their careers. Here at 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.

Mission

The Department of Teacher Education is committed to the principle that teaching is a moral endeavor and that the primary purpose of education in America’s schools is the preparation of our youth for the role of citizen in our social and political democracy. This basic belief forms the foundation of our mission. The mission is predicated upon the four moral dimensions espoused by the National Network for Educational Renewal (NNER): (a) the enculturation of youth into a social and political democracy, (b) access to knowledge, (c) nurturing pedagogy, and (d) stewardship. The themes of democracy, diversity, and technology are also central to department courses and programs.

Department Objectives

• To provide premier undergraduate and graduate programs for the preparation of pre-service teachers and the professional development of in-service teachers.
• To encourage the habits of independent and lifelong learning among undergraduate- and graduate-level students.
• To foster the development of effective and committed educators who are responsible, collaborative, and reflective. To this end, department undergraduate and graduate courses provide a broad knowledge base, applied skills, competencies, dispositions, and appropriate field and/or practicum experiences.

Desired Outcomes for Graduates

1. Understand the relationship of the philosophy that guides the education process in a democratic society, the College of Education, their specific discipline, and the behaviors they utilize in their classrooms.
2. Understand the central concepts, tools of inquiry, instructional technology, and standards of the discipline(s) they teach and be able to create learning experiences that make these aspects of subject matter meaningful for all students.
3. Understand how cultural background influences student learning and development. They will be able to provide technologically-enhanced and other learning opportunities that support intellectual, social, and personal development of diverse students.
4. Understand different student learning styles and exceptionalities and be able to develop a variety of instructional opportunities, including the use of technology, that are adapted for diverse learners.
5. Be reflective practitioners who continually evaluate the effects of their choices and actions on others (students, parents, and other professionals in the learning community) and who actively seek out opportunities to grow professionally.
6. Understand and use both formal and informal assessment strategies to evaluate professional standards to ensure the continuous intellectual, social, and physical development of the learner.
7. Be skilled in the democratic process of collaborative decision making.
8. Understand the strengths and needs of their students and possess the necessary skills to work effectively with individuals and groups from a variety of racial, cultural, ethnic, experiential, and linguistic backgrounds.
9. Have knowledge of family and school influences that affect student wellness, learning, and achievement. They must be able to form partnerships among parents, educators, and the community in the best interests of their students.
10. Understand the school as a democratic system and how to work with individuals and groups to facilitate structures and policies that create and maintain school as a safe, caring, and inviting place for members of the school community.

Campus Programs

Bachelor of Arts in Education Degree:
Elementary Education Teaching Field Endorsement
Middle Grades Teaching Endorsement
Special Education Teaching Field Endorsement (K-6, 7-12, K-12)
Early Childhood Inclusive Teaching Field Endorsement
Bachelor of Science in Education Degree:
Middle Grades Teaching Field Endorsement
Online Programs
Bachelor of Arts in Education Degree:
Early Childhood Inclusive Teaching Field Endorsement (ECI)

Teaching Field Endorsements

Biology 7-12
Chemistry 7-12
Geography 7-12
Health Education 7-12
History 7-12
Physical Education PK-6, 7-12, PK-12
Physics 7-12
Political Science 7-12
Psychology 7-12
Secondary English 7-12
Sociology 7-12
Special Education Generalist K-6, 7-12
World Language 7-12
-French, German, Spanish

Teaching Field Endorsements

Art PK-12
BMT 6-12 (Business, Marketing & Information Technology)
Early Childhood Inclusive Birth-Grade 3
Elementary Education K-6
English Language Arts 7-12
Health & Physical Education PK-12
Mathematics 6-12
Middle Level Education 5-9
-English Language Arts
-Mathematics
-Science
-Social Science
Music PK-12
Social Science 7-12
Special Education Generalist K-12

Supplemental Teaching Endorsements

Must be paired with subject or field endorsement
Adapted Physical Education PK-12
English as a Second Language PK-12
Interscholastic Coaching 7-12
SPED: Early Intervention Specialist B-PK
SPED: Functional Academic Skills and Independent Living Specialist B-12
Theatre 7-12
Work-Based Learning 9-12

Your Degree Program

When you pursue your career in Teacher Education at UNK, your four-year Degree Program will consist of:

General Studies Program
45 hours
Professional Sequence
≈ 30 hours
One subject endorsement or one field endorsement
≈ 30-45 hours
BA or BS Degree in Education
120 hours total

Teaching Subject Endorsements

Desired Outcomes for Graduates

1. Understand the relationship of the philosophy that guides the education process in a democratic society, the College of Education, their specific discipline, and the behaviors they utilize in their classrooms.
2. Understand the central concepts, tools of inquiry, instructional technology, and standards of the discipline(s) they teach and be able to create learning experiences that make these aspects of subject matter meaningful for all students.
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5. Be reflective practitioners who continually evaluate the effects of their choices and actions on others (students, parents, and other professionals in the learning community) and who actively seek out opportunities to grow professionally.
6. Understand and use both formal and informal assessment strategies to evaluate professional standards to ensure the continuous intellectual, social, and physical development of the learner.
7. Be skilled in the democratic process of collaborative decision making.
8. Understand the strengths and needs of their students and possess the necessary skills to work effectively with individuals and groups from a variety of racial, cultural, ethnic, experiential, and linguistic backgrounds.
9. Have knowledge of family and school influences that affect student wellness, learning, and achievement. They must be able to form partnerships among parents, educators, and the community in the best interests of their students.
10. Understand the school as a democratic system and how to work with individuals and groups to facilitate structures and policies that create and maintain school as a safe, caring, and inviting place for members of the school community.

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Educator Certification Office

UNK students who are pursuing a program/degree that leads to initial teacher certification must be formally admitted into the Teacher Education Program. Admission requirements include maintaining a 2.75 GPA, passing the Praxis Core exams, completing specific classes with a grade of “C” or above, providing evidence of the absence of any criminal conviction that would prevent a student from qualifying for a teaching certificate, (includes self-disclosure and a criminal background check), and providing evidence of sufficient emotional and mental capacity. At the end of their programs, students spend a semester, or more, in the field student teaching.

Be aware that some misdemeanor and felony convictions can prevent applicants from participating in a UNK Teacher Education program and obtaining a Nebraska teaching certificate. If you have a misdemeanor or felony conviction, even if it occurred many years ago or has been set aside, please contact Jenny Jansky (JanskyJL@unk.edu), Certification Officer, for more information.

Before qualifying for Nebraska educator certification, students are required to pass the Praxis Subject Assessments (does not apply to supplemental endorsements.)

For questions, please contact the Educator Certification Office at 308-865-8264 or eco@unk.edu.

Advising

Academic advising is an important and essential component in your college success. UNK provides quality individual advising. Frequent and on-going communication with your advisor and the Certification Officer is recommended to ensure a smooth and successful transition to UNK and to develop an efficient progression through the desired program of study.

Involvement

ELED Club
Kappa Delta Pi – Educational Honor Society
Secondary Educator’s Club
SO College – UNK
Student Education Association of Nebraska (SEAN)

Additional Resources

Admissions – Apply online
unk.edu/admissions

College of Education
unk.edu/academics/coe

Department of Teacher Education
unk.edu/academics/teo

Colleges and Departments
unk.edu/academics

Financial Aid/Scholarships/Student Loan Information
unk.edu/offices/financial_aid

Office of Educator Certification
unk.edu/certification

We are difference makers

Teaching is indeed a calling. At UNK, we can help you make a difference in the lives of students – ultimately making a big difference in the world today and tomorrow.