



## Program Guidebook

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### Bachelor of Arts, Educational Studies

*The Bachelor of Arts in Educational Studies is a competency-based program that enables students to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree online. The B.A. in Educational Studies includes content knowledge related to elementary-level teaching. It does not include a supervised teaching practicum in a real classroom and therefore does not meet the requirements for initial teacher licensure. This program is for individuals who, for various reasons, want the academic knowledge that relates to teaching, but who cannot or do not want to participate in a supervised classroom practicum and do not expect to be eligible to teach as a result of completing the program. This program consists of four balanced areas of study (domains) and competency-based assessments.*

## Understanding the Competency-Based Approach

Practically speaking, how do competency-based programs like those offered at Western Governors University (WGU) work? Unlike traditional universities, WGU does not award degrees based on completion of a certain number of credit hours or a certain set of required courses. Instead, you will earn your degree by demonstrating your skills, knowledge, and understanding of important concepts.

Progress through a degree program is governed not by the amount of time you spend in class but by your ability to demonstrate mastery of competencies as you complete required courses. Of course, you will need to engage in learning experiences as you review competencies or develop knowledge and skills in areas in which you may be weak. To help you acquire the knowledge and skills you need to complete your courses and program, WGU provides a rich array of learning resources. Your program mentor will work closely with you to help you understand the competencies required for your program and to help you create a schedule for completing your courses. You will also work closely with course instructors as you engage in each of your courses. As subject matter experts, course instructors will guide you through the content you must master to pass the course assessments.

The benefit of this competency-based system is that enables students who are knowledgeable about a particular subject to make accelerated progress toward completing a degree, even if they lack college experience. You may have gained skills and knowledge of a subject while on the job, accumulated wisdom through years of life experience, or already taken a course on a particular subject. WGU will award your degree based on the skills and knowledge that you possess and can demonstrate—not the number of credits hours on your transcript.

## Accreditation

Western Governors University is the only university in the history of American higher education to have earned accreditation from four regional accrediting commissions. WGU's accreditation was awarded by (1) the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, (2) the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, (3) the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, and (4) the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The university's accreditation status is now managed by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), which reaffirmed WGU's accreditation in February 2020. The WGU Teachers College is accredited at the initial-licensure level by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) and by the Association of Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation (AAQEP). The nursing programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The Health Information Management program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM). The College of Business programs are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP).

## The Degree Plan

The focus of your program is your personalized Degree Plan. The Degree Plan is a detailed blueprint of the courses you will need to complete in order to earn your degree. The Degree Plan also lays out the accompanying learning resources and assessments that compose your program. The list of courses in the Degree Plan is often referred to as the standard path. The amount of time it takes to complete your program depends on both the amount of new information you need to learn and the amount of time you plan to devote each week to study.

Students vary widely in the specific skills and information they need to learn. For example, some students may be highly knowledgeable in a particular subject matter and would not need to engage in new learning opportunities. Other students may find that portions of the program require them to learn new information and that they need to take an online class or participate in a study module to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to fulfill program competencies in that area. Some individuals may be able to devote as little as 15–20 hours per week to the program, while others may need to devote more time. For this reason,

pre-assessments are there to help your program mentor form a profile of your prior knowledge and create a personalized Degree Plan.

## How You Will Interact with Faculty

At WGU, faculty serve in specialized roles, and they will work with you individually to provide the guidance, instruction, and support you will need to succeed and graduate. As a student, it is important for you to take advantage of this support. It is key to your progress and ultimate success.

Upon your enrollment, you will be assigned a program mentor—an expert in your field of study who will provide you with regular program-level guidance and support from the day you start until the day you graduate. Your program mentor will set up regular telephone appointments (weekly at first) with you, which you will be expected to keep. The mentor will review program competencies with you and work with you to develop a plan and schedule for your coursework. Your program mentor will serve as your main point of contact throughout your program—helping you set weekly study goals, recommending specific learning materials, telling you what to expect in courses, and keeping you motivated. In addition to regular calls, your program mentor is available to help you resolve questions and concerns as they arise.

For many of the courses at WGU, you will be required to complete performance assessments. These include reports, papers, presentations, and projects that let you demonstrate your mastery of the required competencies. A separate group of faculty members, called evaluators, will review your work to determine whether it meets requirements. Evaluators are also subject matter experts in their field of evaluation. If your assessment needs further work before it “passes,” these evaluators, who review your work anonymously, will provide you with instructional feedback to help you meet evaluation standards and allow you to advance.

## Connecting with Other Mentors and Fellow Students

As you proceed through your Degree Plan, you will have direct contact with multiple faculty members. These communications can take a variety of forms, including participation in one-on-one discussions, chats in the learning communities, and live cohort and webinar opportunities. As a WGU student, you will have access to your own personal MyWGU Student Portal, which will provide a gateway to your courses of study, learning resources, and learning communities where you will interact with faculty and other students.

The learning resources in each course are specifically designed to support you as you develop competencies in preparation for your assessments. These learning resources may include reading materials, videos, tutorials, cohort opportunities, community discussions, and live discussions that are guided by course instructors who are experts in their field. You will access your program community during your orientation course to network with peers who are enrolled in your program and to receive continued support through professional enrichment and program-specific chats, blogs, and discussions. WGU also provides Student Services associates to help you and your program mentor solve any special problems that may arise.

## Orientation

The WGU orientation course focuses on acquainting you with WGU’s competency-based model, distance education, technology, and other resources and tools available for students. You will also utilize WGU program and course communities, participate in activities, and get to know other students at WGU. The orientation course must be completed before you can start your first term at WGU.

## Transferability of Prior College Coursework

Because WGU is a competency-based institution, it does not award degrees based on credits but rather on demonstration of competency. However, if you have completed college coursework at another

accredited institution, or if you have completed industry certifications, you may have your transcripts and certifications evaluated to determine if you are eligible to receive some transfer credit. The guidelines for determining what credits will be granted varies based on the degree program. Students entering graduate programs must have their undergraduate degree verified before being admitted to WGU. To review more information in regards to transfer guidelines based on the different degree programs, you may visit the Student Handbook found at the link below and search for "Transfer Credit Evaluation." Within the Teachers College, there may be additional courses to meet state requirements.

[Click here for the Student Handbook](#)

WGU does not waive any requirements based on a student's professional experience and does not perform a "résumé review" or "portfolio review" that will automatically waive any degree requirements. Degree requirements and transferability rules are subject to change in order to keep the degree content relevant and current.

Remember, WGU's competency-based approach lets you take advantage of your knowledge and skills, regardless of how you obtained them. Even when you do not directly receive credit, the knowledge you possess may help you accelerate the time it takes to complete your degree program.

## **Continuous Enrollment, On Time Progress, and Satisfactory Academic Progress**

WGU is a "continuous enrollment" institution, which means you will be automatically enrolled in each of your new terms while you are at WGU. Each term is six months long. Longer terms and continuous enrollment allow you to focus on your studies without the hassle of unnatural breaks between terms that you would experience at a more traditional university. At the end of every six-month term, you and your program mentor will review the progress you have made and revise your Degree Plan for your next six-month term.

WGU requires that students make measurable progress toward the completion of their degree programs every term. We call this "On-Time Progress," denoting that you are on track and making progress toward on-time graduation. As full-time students, graduate students must enroll in at least 8 competency units each term, and undergraduate students must enroll in at least 12 competency units each term. Completing at least these minimum enrollments is essential to On-Time Progress and serves as a baseline from which you may accelerate your program. We measure your progress based on the courses you are able to pass, not on your accumulation of credit hours or course grades. Every time you pass a course, you are demonstrating that you have mastered skills and knowledge in your degree program. For comparison to traditional grading systems, passing a course means you have demonstrated competency equivalent to a "B" grade or better.

WGU assigns competency units to each course in order to track your progress through the program. A competency unit is equivalent to one semester credit of learning. Some courses may be assigned 3 competency units while others may be as large as 12 competency units.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) is particularly important to students on financial aid because you must achieve SAP in order to maintain eligibility for financial aid. We will measure your SAP quantitatively by reviewing the number of competency units you have completed each term. In order to remain in good academic standing, you must complete at least 66.67% of the units you attempt over the length of your program—including any courses you add to your term to accelerate your progress. Additionally, during your first term at WGU you must pass at least 3 competency units in order to remain eligible for financial aid. We know that SAP is complex, so please contact a financial aid counselor should you have additional questions. \*Please note: The Endorsement Preparation Program in Educational Leadership is not eligible for federal financial aid.

## **Courses**

Your Degree Plan includes courses needed to complete your program. To obtain your degree, you will be required to demonstrate your skills and knowledge by completing the assessment(s) for each course. In general there are two types of assessments: performance assessments and objective assessments. Performance assessments contain, in most cases, multiple scored tasks such as projects, essays, and research papers. Objective assessments include multiple-choice items, multiple-selection items, matching, short answer, drag-and-drop, and point-and-click item types, as well as case study and video-based items. Certifications verified through third parties may also be included in your program. More detailed information about each assessment is provided in each course of study.

## External Content & Basic Skills Exams

Western Governors University requires that candidates pass the state-mandated content exam that aligns with their WGU program in addition to a basic skills exam (initial licensure programs only). Specific information regarding required content and basic skills exams required for each program and state can be found in the WGU Student Handbook. In many cases, it is the candidates' responsibility to register and pay for the required exams and submit their official passing score reports to WGU.

## State Licensure Requirements

Many states have specific licensure requirements that are not part of WGU programs that you will have to fulfill in addition to the degree requirements of your program. These state licensure requirements might include, but are not limited to: subject-specific licensure exams, state-specific teacher performance assessments, course work related to state history, basic skills exams, and background clearances. The WGU Student Handbook outlines the credentialing requirements of each state. Teacher candidates should consult the applicable section to become familiar with their state's expectations regarding licensure..

## Learning Resources

WGU works with many different educational partners, including enterprises, publishers, training companies, and higher educational institutions, to provide high-quality and effective learning resources that match the competencies you are developing. These vary in type, and may be combined to create the best learning experience for your course. A learning resource can be an e-textbook, online module, study guide, simulation, virtual lab, tutorial, or a combination of these. The cost of most learning resources are included in your tuition and Learning Resource Fee. They can be accessed or enrolled for through your courses. Some degree-specific resources are not covered by your tuition, and you will need to cover those costs separately. WGU also provides a robust library to help you obtain additional learning resources, as needed.

Mobile Compatibility:

The following article provides additional details about the current state of mobile compatibility for learning resources at WGU. It includes a list that can be referenced to determine the mobile friendliness of all core course materials used in a program.

[Student Handbook article: Can I use my mobile device for learning resources?](#)

## Standard Path

As previously mentioned, competency units (CUs) have been assigned to each course in order to measure your academic progress. If you are an undergraduate student, you will be expected to enroll in a

minimum of 12 competency units each term. Graduate students are expected to enroll in a minimum of 8 competency units each term. A standard plan for a student for this program who entered WGU without any transfer units would look similar to the one on the following page. Your personal progress can be faster, but your pace will be determined by the extent of your transfer units, your time commitment, and your determination to proceed at a faster rate.

## Standard Path for Bachelor of Arts, Educational Studies

Course Description	CUs
Educational Foundations	2
Health, Fitness, and Wellness	4
Introduction to Humanities	3
English Composition I	3
Mathematics for Elementary Educators I	3
Educational Psychology and Development of Children and Adolescents	4
English Composition II	3
Introduction to Communication	3
Survey of United States History	3
Mathematics for Elementary Educators II	3
American Politics and the US Constitution	3
The School as a Community of Care	3
Survey of World History	3
Fundamentals of Diverse Learners	4
Integrated Physical Sciences	3
Mathematics for Elementary Educators III	3
Natural Science Lab	2
Managing Engaging Learning Environments	3
Introduction to Biology	3
Introduction to Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment	3
Assessing Impact on Student Learning	3
Elementary Mathematics Methods	3
Educational Technology for Teaching and Learning	3
Elementary Reading Methods and Interventions	3
Language Arts Instruction and Intervention	3
Elementary Science Methods	3
Elementary Social Studies Methods	3
Elementary Physical Education and Health Methods	3
Elementary Visual and Performing Arts Methods	3
Elementary Disciplinary Literacy	3
Children's Literature	3
Preclinical Experiences in Elementary Education	3
Research Writing	3
Educational Theory and Analysis	4
Educational Theory Synthesis and Evaluation	3

Course Description	CUs
Theoretical Reasoning and Problem Solving	9
Educational Studies Integration	2

## Changes to Curriculum

WGU publishes an Institutional Catalog, which describes the academic requirements of each degree program. Although students are required to complete the program version current at the time of their enrollment, WGU may modify requirements and course offerings within that version of the program to maintain the currency and relevance of WGU's competencies and programs. As these changes are implemented, WGU will ensure that the length of the student's degree program (i.e., total competency unit requirements) will not increase and that competency units already earned will be applied to the updated program version. When program requirements are updated, students readmitting after withdrawal from the university will be expected to re-enter into the most current catalog version of the program.



# Areas of Study for Bachelor of Arts, Educational Studies

The following section includes the areas of study in the program, with their associated courses. Your specific learning resources and level of instructional support will vary based on the individual competencies you bring to the program and your confidence in developing the knowledge, skills, and abilities required in each area of the degree. The Degree Plan and learning resources are dynamic, so you need to review your Degree Plan and seek the advice of your mentor regarding the resources before you purchase them.

## Professional Core

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### Educational Foundations

Educational Foundations is a key component of WGU's Professional Core and is a required course for all initial licensure candidates. The course provides candidates with early classroom experience where they observe multiple school settings at three different levels of schooling and interview an educator to learn how state standards and various legal and ethical issues affect classrooms today. The course also provides candidates with opportunities to gain foundational knowledge about what it means to be a teacher in the current educational context while exploring their future role within the larger landscape of historical and cultural influences. This course ensures candidates have a firm grasp on important issues affecting educators including state standards-based curriculum, legal and ethical requirements affecting educational opportunities, and professionalism, preparing them for subsequent coursework within the Professional Core and their content area major courses. Five preclinical hours are interwoven throughout this course, and cross-cutting themes of technology and diversity are introduced for further development throughout the candidate's programs.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate evaluates the application of educational best practices in diverse learning settings to inform teaching practice.*
- *The graduate analyzes the role of historical and cultural influences, including issues of federal and state governance, in determining standard educational practices and ensuring equal access to educational opportunities.*
- *The graduate explores pathways and opportunities for professional development to grow as an educator.*
- *The graduate examines the impact of standards-based curriculum on students and teachers to determine how it supports a school's goals.*

### Educational Psychology and Development of Children and Adolescents

Educational Psychology and Development of Children and Adolescents is a key component of WGU's Professional Core and is a required course for all initial licensure candidates. This course prepares candidates to support classroom practices grounded in research-validated principles from the areas of educational psychology and child/adolescent development. Candidates will be introduced to learning theories that equip them with the knowledge and skills necessary to support the diverse populations of students with whom they will interact. This course addresses theories of human development, spanning early childhood through adolescence, and candidates completing this course will be able to explain and analyze the guiding perspectives on linguistic, physical, cognitive, and social development. This course will also cover appropriate instructional and assessment strategies to support student learning and development. Candidates will engage in four hours of virtual classroom observations related to issues in educational psychology and learner development. Cross-cutting themes of technology and diversity are interwoven for further development. This course is designed to be taken after successful completion of the Educational Foundations course.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate evaluates classroom practices to determine how theories of child and adolescent psychology, learning, and development are applied in the classroom environment.*
- *The graduate describes theories of development across the cognitive, linguistic, social, emotional, and physical areas to understand the needs of students at various developmental levels.*
- *The graduate evaluates the influence of students' developmental characteristics on their learning and evaluates performance to inform instructional decisions.*
- *The graduate recommends instructional strategies that will positively impact learning, based on principles of learning theories.*

### The School as a Community of Care

The School as a Community of Care is a key component of WGU's Professional Core and is a required course for all initial licensure candidates. This course prepares candidates to meet the social and emotional needs of learners, taking into

account theories and philosophical perspectives on child and adolescent development and learning. Candidates learn to effectively collaborate with parents, families, caregivers, and other community stakeholders in each child's education, to build a strong foundation for academic and personal success. Emphasis is placed on family engagement as candidates gain knowledge of individual, cultural, and community assets that can be used to facilitate learner growth and development, as well as understand mental health and emotional differences among learners that may necessitate leveraging additional resources to support students' wellbeing. Issues of youth mental health, substance abuse, suicide awareness and prevention, and abuse within families will be addressed as will the importance of parent involvement. Candidates will engage in seven hours of preclinical experiences, which include visual observations of learning environments that involve parents and families in their children's education while supporting the social and emotional learning (SEL) needs of learners and an interview with an educational professional to explore topics related to parent involvement, youth mental health issues, and professional responsibilities to ensure student wellbeing. Additionally, crosscutting themes of technology and diversity are interwoven for further development. This course is designed to be taken after successful completion of the Educational Psychology and Development of Children and Adolescents course.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate plans for learning environments that meet all students' cultural, social, and emotional learning needs by incorporating knowledge of individual learners, diverse cultures, and communities.*
- *The graduate collaborates with families, caretakers, and the larger community to identify partnerships that facilitate learner growth.*
- *The graduate identifies appropriate resources and processes to support the mental health and emotional well-being of students.*
- *The graduate develops strategies to address the social and emotional learning (SEL) needs of students, including the incorporation of trauma-informed or restorative instructional practices.*

## **Fundamentals of Diverse Learners**

Fundamentals of Diverse Learners is a key component of WGU's Professional Core and is a required course for all initial licensure candidates. This course prepares candidates to consider and address the wide range of learning needs in the classrooms of today. This course teaches candidates to identify and support the needs of diverse populations of learners, including, for example, students with disabilities (INCLUDING DYSLEXIA), English language learners, and gifted and talented students. Practical strategies for differentiating instruction while creating a safe, inclusive, and culturally responsive learning environment are explored. This course helps candidates develop skills for partnering with parents and advocating for all students, particularly those impacted by provisions of IDEA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Multitiered systems of supports are addressed to prepare candidates for their future classrooms as they seek to select appropriate instructional practices and interventions to best serve their students. Candidates will engage in four hours of preclinical experiences that includes a simulated teaching experience in which skills learned can be applied. Cross-cutting themes of technology and diversity are interwoven for further development. This course is designed to be taken after successful completion of the School as a Community of Care course.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate plans learning experiences that accommodate linguistic diversity to facilitate the success of all learners.*
- *The graduate creates learning experiences that accommodate the needs of students with exceptionalities, including gifted and talented students, in order to facilitate the success of all learners.*
- *The graduate creates inclusive learning environments featuring multitiered systems of supports to address the needs of all students, including exceptional learners and English learners.*
- *The graduate recommends strategies to engage with students, families, administrators, and other stakeholders in ways that are effective, legal, and ethical.*
- *The graduate integrates equity pedagogy to address the needs of multicultural learners.*
- *The graduate analyzes the application of policies, practices, and legal requirements to inform teaching practice.*

## **Managing Engaging Learning Environments**

Managing Engaging Learning Environments is a key component of WGU's Professional Core and is a required course for all initial licensure candidates. This course prepares candidates to establish and contribute to safe and productive learning environments that support the success of all learners by ensuring student engagement and motivation for learning. Candidates will learn strategies, such as incorporating consistent routines and expectations, to provide positive behavior supports, increase learner motivation, promote active learning and self-direction, and ensure a safe and productive classroom setting that fosters a sense of community through collaborative educational practices. The course will culminate in evidence-based, practical application of current strategies, theories, or philosophical perspectives related to motivating and engaging all students in a learning community. Candidates will engage in seven hours of preclinical experiences that include both virtual observations of classroom settings and time in a simulated classroom environment where theory can be

put into practice. Cross-cutting themes of technology and diversity are interwoven for further development. This course is designed to be taken after successful completion of the Fundamentals of Diverse Learners course.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate establishes norms and routines to create a safe and productive learning environment that encourages positive social interactions, individual and collaborative learning, and appropriate classroom behaviors.*
- *The graduate recommends strategies that are motivating and encourage active engagement from all students.*
- *The graduate analyzes the theoretical foundations and application of classroom management strategies, including behavior support and conflict management, to inform teaching practice.*
- *The graduate interacts with each student in a way that builds positive relationships by using knowledge of individual learners, diverse cultures, and communities.*

## **Introduction to Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment**

Introduction to Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment is a key component of WGU's Professional Core and is a required course for all initial licensure candidates. This course provides candidates with the knowledge and skills necessary to create engaging and standards-aligned lessons that meet the needs of all learners. Candidates will learn to analyze learner needs based on a variety of inputs, including their state P–12 standards, assessment results, and knowledge of learner differences. This course will help candidates design, deliver, and modify instruction in accordance to needs and educational requirements. Candidates will engage in three hours of preclinical experiences that include virtual classroom observations. They also will record a short teaching segment, allowing for authentic teaching experience. Crosscutting themes of technology and diversity are interwoven for continued development. This course is designed to be taken after successful completion of the Managing Engaging Learning Environments course.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate analyzes the role of various assessment types in evaluating student learning and planning future instruction.*
- *The graduate differentiates instruction to facilitate mastery for all learners.*
- *The graduate incorporates cross-disciplinary instruction, skills, and content into lessons.*
- *The graduate implements evidence-based instructional strategies to increase content area learning.*
- *The graduate aligns lessons to learning goals by synthesizing knowledge about students and their assessment data.*
- *The graduate creates standards-based instructional plans based on their state's P–12 standards that incorporate knowledge of learners' developmental needs, prior learning, and community and cultural context.*

## **Assessing Impact on Student Learning**

Assessing Impact on Student Learning is a key component of WGU's Professional Core and is a required course for all initial licensure candidates. This course equips candidates to evaluate student learning and their own professional practice, ensuring candidates are prepared to ensure all learners' success. In this course, candidates learn multiple methods of assessment to ensure they are able to implement a balanced approach to assessment while monitoring their students' progress. Assessments types such as formative, summative, standardized, and common assessments are addressed so candidates understand their purposes and can apply them within the context of a lesson to determine impact on learning. Data literacy skills are taught to ensure candidates interpret and analyze individual and classroom data and apply their knowledge in ways that support academic success. Candidates will engage in three hours of preclinical experiences that include virtual classroom observations. Cross-cutting themes of technology and diversity are interwoven for further development. This course is designed to be taken after successful completion of the Introduction to Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment course.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate determines their impact on learners and the broader school community through evaluation of teaching practice.*
- *The graduate makes evidence-based instructional decisions that are informed by student assessment data.*
- *The graduate analyzes assessment results to evaluate student learning and teacher effectiveness.*
- *The graduate plans a progress-monitoring strategy, including formative, summative, and common assessments, that actively engages students in their own learning.*

## **Educational Technology for Teaching and Learning**

Educational Technology for Teaching and Learning is a key component of WGU's professional core and is a required course for all initial licensure candidates. This course prepares candidates to incorporate technology into their classroom practices in ways that improve teaching and learning. The ISTE standards will form the basis for their practice. The material will teach candidates to critically evaluate software and hardware options that may positively impact the classroom environment, while also increasing their awareness of ethical usage and considerations related to equity, access to technology, and appropriate use of technology by P–12 students. Assistive technologies to meet the needs of a diverse learner population also will be taught in this course. Candidates will engage in three hours of preclinical experience that include virtual observations of classroom practices incorporating technology to support educational goals. Crosscutting themes of technology and diversity are interwoven for further development. This course is designed to be taken after successful completion of the Assessing Impact on Student Learning course.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate promotes a technology-enabled classroom culture that is equitable, ethical, and socially responsible.*
- *The graduate recommends technology as an assessment tool to encompass multiple learner needs, provide in the moment feedback, and inform instruction.*
- *The graduate evaluates the application of technology in the classroom, including its impact on learning for all students and potential equity or access issues.*
- *The graduate fosters student self-directedness and independent learning through the use of technology.*
- *The graduate applies curricular and instructional design principles to create effective digital learning environments.*
- *The graduate analyzes how research-based applications of technology facilitate student learning.*

## **General Education**

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### **Health, Fitness, and Wellness**

Health, Fitness, and Wellness focuses on the importance and foundations of good health and physical fitness—particularly for children and adolescents—addressing health, nutrition, fitness, and substance use and abuse.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate identifies the application of the core competencies of social and emotional learning.*
- *The graduate identifies the influence of disease, fitness, and lifestyle on the body.*
- *The graduate identifies the principles of nutrition and the components of a healthy diet.*
- *The graduate identifies factors that influence mental, emotional, and social wellness.*

### **Introduction to Humanities**

This introductory humanities course allows candidates to practice essential writing, communication, and critical thinking skills necessary to engage in civic and professional interactions as mature, informed adults. Whether through studying literature, visual and performing arts, or philosophy, all humanities courses stress the need to form reasoned, analytical, and articulate responses to cultural and creative works. Studying a wide variety of creative works allows candidates to more effectively enter the global community with a broad and enlightened perspective.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *This competency exists to assess the readiness of students.*
- *The graduate assesses the development of humans through the study of key concepts, disciplines, and primary influences of the humanities.*
- *The graduate analyzes the primary contributions and characteristics of humanities during the Romantic period.*
- *The graduate analyzes the primary contributions and characteristics of humanities during the Neoclassical and Enlightenment period.*
- *The graduate analyzes the primary contributions and characteristics of humanities during the Classical period.*
- *The graduate analyzes the primary contributions and characteristics of humanities during the Realism movement.*
- *The graduate analyzes the primary contributions and characteristics of humanities during the Renaissance.*

### **English Composition I**

English Composition I introduces candidates to the types of writing and thinking that are valued in college and beyond.

Candidates will practice writing in several genres with emphasis placed on writing and revising academic arguments. Instruction and exercises in grammar, mechanics, research documentation, and style are paired with each module so that writers can practice these skills as necessary. Composition I is a foundational course designed to help candidates prepare for success at the college level. There are no prerequisites for English Composition I.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *This competency exists to assess the readiness of students.*
- *The graduate selects appropriate rhetorical strategies that improve writing and argumentation.*
- *The graduate uses appropriate writing and revision strategies.*
- *The graduate applies appropriate grammatical rules, sentence structure, and writing conventions.*
- *The graduate appropriately uses a given writing style.*
- *The graduate composes an appropriate narrative for a given context.*
- *The graduate composes an appropriate argumentative essay for a given context.*
- *The graduate integrates credible and relevant sources into written arguments.*

## **Mathematics for Elementary Educators I**

Mathematics for Elementary Educators I guides preservice elementary teachers in an investigation of number systems, place value, number theory, and ratio and proportion. This is the first course in a three-course sequence. There are no prerequisites for this course.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate applies understanding of place value to solve problems that involve exponents, rounding numbers, and composing or decomposing numbers.*
- *The graduate solves problems involving percentage, ratio, rate, and proportion.*
- *The graduate applies the properties of rational numbers to solve problems.*
- *The graduate applies concepts related to number theory to solve problems involving prime and composite numbers, factors, and multiples of numbers.*
- *The graduate uses standard algorithms, properties of numbers, mathematical models, and order of operations in whole number and integer arithmetic.*

## **English Composition II**

English Composition II introduces candidates to the types of research and writing that are valued in college and beyond. Candidates will practice writing, with emphasis placed on research, writing, and revising an academic argument. Instruction and exercises in grammar, mechanics, research documentation, and style are paired with each module so that writers can practice these skills as necessary. Composition II is a foundational course designed to help candidates prepare for success at the college level. Composition I is the prerequisite for Composition II.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *This competency exists to assess the readiness of students.*
- *The graduate composes an argumentative research paper.*
- *The graduate applies steps of the writing process appropriately to improve quality of writing.*
- *The graduate evaluates the quality, credibility, and relevance of evidence in order to integrate evidence into a final research paper.*

## **Introduction to Communication**

This introductory communication course allows candidates to become familiar with the fundamental communication theories and practices necessary to engage in healthy professional and personal relationships. Candidates will survey human communication on multiple levels and critically apply the theoretical grounding of the course to interpersonal, intercultural, small group, and public presentational contexts. The course also encourages candidates to consider the influence of language, perception, culture, and media on their daily communicative interactions. In addition to theory, candidates will engage in the application of effective communication skills through systematically preparing and delivering an oral presentation. By practicing these fundamental skills in human communication, candidates become more competent communicators as they develop more flexible, useful, and discriminatory communicative practices in a variety of contexts. Note: There are references within this video to Taskstream. If Taskstream is not part of your student experience, please

disregard, and locate your task(s) within your course.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *This competency exists to assess the readiness of students.*
- *The graduate utilizes appropriate presentational communication strategies in personal and professional settings.*
- *The graduate applies foundational elements of effective communication.*
- *The graduate applies appropriate communication strategies in interpersonal and group contexts.*

## **Survey of United States History**

This course presents a broad and thematic survey of U.S. history from European colonization to the mid-twentieth century. Students will explore how historical events and major themes in American history have affected a diverse population.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate analyzes the colonial experience and the foundations of the American Revolution.*
- *The graduate analyzes the challenges of partisan politics and sectionalism in the Early Republic and Civil War eras.*
- *The graduate examines the major changes that defined the United States in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries.*
- *The graduate explains significant international and domestic challenges that the United States confronted since World War I.*

## **Mathematics for Elementary Educators II**

Mathematics for Elementary Educators II engages preservice elementary school teachers in mathematical practices of algebraic reasoning. This course explores important algebraic topics such as patterns, expressions and equations, linear equations, inequalities, and functions. This is the second course in a three-course sequence.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate uses patterns to make predictions and solve problems.*
- *The graduate interprets relations and functions.*
- *The graduate identifies and evaluates expressions, equations, and formulas.*
- *The graduate solves linear equations and inequalities represented by equations, inequalities, number lines, graphs, and tables.*

## **American Politics and the US Constitution**

American Politics and the U.S. Constitution examines the evolution of representative government in the United States and the changing interpretations of the civil rights and civil liberties protected by the Constitution. This course will give candidates an understanding of the powers of the branches of the federal government, the continual tensions inherent in a federal system, the shifting relationship between state and federal governments, and the interactions between elected officials and the ever-changing electorate. This course will focus on such topics as the role of a free press in a democracy, the impact of changing demographics on American politics, and the debates over and expansion of civil rights. Upon completion of the course, candidates should be able to explain the basic functions of the federal government, describe the forces that shape American policy and politics, and be better prepared to participate in America's civic institutions. This course has no prerequisite.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *This competency exists to assess the readiness of students.*
- *The graduate examines the influence of political parties, citizens, and non-governmental organizations on elections and other political processes inside a participatory democracy.*
- *The graduate examines the struggle to balance individual liberty, public order, and state's rights.*
- *The graduate examines the influence of the media, public opinion, and political discourse on American democracy.*
- *The graduate describes the influence of competing political ideologies on the development of the United States government.*
- *The graduate explains how the structure and powers of the United States government interact to form public policy.*

## Survey of World History

Through a thematic approach, this course explores the history of human societies over 5,000 years. Candidates examine political and social structures, religious beliefs, economic systems, and patterns in trade, as well as many cultural attributes that came to distinguish different societies around the globe over time. Special attention is given to relationships between these societies and the way geographic and environmental factors influence human development. Note: There are references within this video to Taskstream. If Taskstream is not part of your student experience, please disregard, and locate your task(s) within your course.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *This competency exists to assess the readiness of students.*
- *The graduate analyzes the spread of peoples, ideas, and technologies into new territories as civilizations advanced beyond their borders of origin.*
- *The graduate examines how primary characteristics (political, cultural, and geographical features) of the first empires (Greece, Rome, Persia, and China) contributed to the establishment and rise of these societies.*
- *The graduate examines how primary characteristics (political, religious, and geographical features) of the first civilizations (Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, and China) contributed to the development of these societies.*
- *The graduate analyzes major cultural, political, and economic shifts that led to revolution, industrialization, and ideological change in the modern period.*

## Mathematics for Elementary Educators III

Mathematics for Elementary Educators III engages preservice elementary teachers in important concepts in geometry, measurement, data analysis and statistics, and probability. This is the third course in a three-course sequence.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate analyzes statistical data using numerical measures and graphical displays.*
- *The graduate applies principles of probability.*
- *The graduate applies transformations, principles of congruence and similarity, and knowledge of the coordinate plane to solve problems.*
- *The graduate applies formulas to solve problems involving perimeter, area, surface area, and volume.*
- *The graduate applies geometric properties of lines, angles, polygons, and circles to classify shapes and solve problems.*
- *The graduate calculates solutions to problems that involve measurement, including elapsed time, temperature, money, length, and weight, using the appropriate units.*

## General Science Content

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### Integrated Physical Sciences

This course provides students with an overview of the basic principles and unifying ideas of the physical sciences: physics, chemistry, and earth sciences. Course materials focus on scientific reasoning and practical, everyday applications of physical science concepts to help students integrate conceptual knowledge with practical skills.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *This competency exists to assess the readiness of students.*
- *The graduate examines applications of physics including fundamental concepts such as forces, motion, energy, and waves.*
- *The graduate describes the underlying organization, interactions, and processes within the Earth system including the Earth's structure and atmosphere, and Earth's interactions within the solar system.*
- *The graduate examines applications of key chemistry concepts including the structure of matter and the behavior and conservation of matter in chemical reactions.*
- *The graduate describes the nature and process of science.*

### Natural Science Lab

This course gives you an introduction to using the scientific method and engaging in scientific research to reach conclusions

about the natural world. You will design and carry out an experiment to investigate a hypothesis by gathering quantitative data.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *This competency exists to assess the readiness of students.*
- *The graduate accurately executes the process of scientific inquiry through experimentation in the natural world.*
- *The graduate evaluates academic sources for their credibility and relevance to a chosen research topic on a natural world phenomenon.*
- *The graduate draws conclusions based on academic research and scientific inquiry.*

## **Introduction to Biology**

This course is a foundational introduction to the biological sciences. The overarching theories of life from biological research are explored as well as the fundamental concepts and principles of the study of living organisms and their interaction with the environment. Key concepts include how living organisms use and produce energy; how life grows, develops, and reproduces; how life responds to the environment to maintain internal stability; and how life evolves and adapts to the environment.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *This competency exists to assess the readiness of students.*
- *The graduate analyzes the biological basis for and patterns of heredity and gene expression.*
- *The graduate analyzes the characteristics and classifications of living organisms.*
- *The graduate analyzes different types of cells based on their structures and biological functions.*
- *The graduate analyzes inter-dependencies of organisms and their environments.*
- *The graduate analyzes the basic chemical composition of cells and the basic processes that happen at the cellular level.*

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## **Elementary Education Methods**

### **Elementary Mathematics Methods**

Elementary Mathematics Methods helps students learn how to implement effective math instruction in the elementary classroom. Topics include differentiated math instruction, mathematical communication, mathematical tools for instruction, assessing math understanding, integrating math across the curriculum, critical thinking development, standards-based mathematics instruction, and mathematical models and representation. This course is designed to be taken after successful completion of Introduction to Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment OR Introduction to Instructional Planning and Presentation AND Instructional Planning and Presentation in Elementary or Special Education.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate applies mathematical learning research as a foundation for instruction.*
- *The graduate recommends various instructional strategies that encourage students' development of critical thinking, problem solving, and performance skills in mathematics.*
- *The graduate evaluates student learning to measure elementary students' mathematical achievement and to plan further instruction.*
- *The graduate applies models and representations to support and enhance the interpretation, organization, recording, and communication of mathematics.*
- *The graduate integrates national, state, and local mathematics standards, learning outcomes, benchmarks, and objectives in the development of mathematics education for elementary students.*
- *The graduate plans differentiated instruction in mathematics education to support the unique needs of diverse learners.*
- *The graduate integrates effective mathematical communication strategies into the development of mathematics education for elementary students.*
- *The graduate creates interdisciplinary learning experiences as contexts for mathematical instruction.*
- *The graduate integrates tools that enhance student mathematics learning.*

### **Elementary Reading Methods and Interventions**



Elementary Reading Methods and Interventions provides candidates with an in-depth look at best practices for developing reading and writing skills. Course content examines the stages of literacy development, balanced literacy approaches, differentiation, technology integration, literacy assessment, and the comprehensive response to intervention (RTI) model used to identify and address the needs of learners who struggle with reading comprehension. This course is designed to be taken after successful completion of Introduction to Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment OR Introduction to Instructional Planning and Presentation AND Instructional Planning and Presentation in Elementary or Special Education.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate uses multiple assessment strategies that support the development of literacy.*
- *The graduate integrates various instructional approaches, materials, and curriculum into the development of learning experiences that support a comprehensive, balanced approach to reading and writing.*
- *The graduate selects developmentally appropriate technology tools that support literacy development and learning.*
- *The graduate integrates best practices and instructional strategies in reading and literacy that support the unique needs of diverse learners into the development of reading and language arts education.*
- *The graduate recommends effective evidence-based teaching practices in the planning of meaningful, engaging, and developmentally-appropriate literacy lessons.*
- *The graduate analyzes major theories and research that support the development of literacy.*
- *The graduate integrates effective, engaging instructional approaches, methods, and curriculum in to the development of environments that support literacy.*

## **Language Arts Instruction and Intervention**

Language Arts Instruction and Intervention helps students learn how to implement effective language arts instruction and intervention in the elementary classroom. Topics include written and spoken English, expanding students' knowledge, literature rich environments, differentiated instruction, technology for reading and writing, assessment strategies for reading and writing, and strategies for developing academic language. There are no prerequisites for this course.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate designs instruction that facilitates the learning of formal English so elementary students can express their ideas clearly and persuasively to a variety of audiences both orally and in writing.*
- *The graduate designs instruction that supports the development of awareness, understanding, respect, and the valuing of differences in society.*
- *The graduate uses multiple assessment strategies that support the development of reading and writing.*
- *The graduate uses appropriate technology tools that motivate students to read, write, interact, and collaborate with others.*
- *The graduate recommends instructional strategies that support the development of academic language, discourse, reading, and writing across the curriculum.*
- *The graduate uses various texts and instructional strategies to facilitate the development of word recognition, comprehension, strategic knowledge, and reading-writing connections to expand elementary students' knowledge of the world.*

## **Elementary Science Methods**

Elementary Science Methods helps students learn how to implement effective science instruction in the elementary classroom. Topics include processes of science, science inquiry, science learning environments, instructional strategies for science, differentiating instruction for science, assessing science understanding, technology for science instruction, standards-based science instruction, integrating science across the curriculum, and science beyond the classroom. This course is designed to be taken after successful completion of Introduction to Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment OR Introduction to Instructional Planning and Presentation AND Instructional Planning and Presentation in Elementary or Special Education.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate uses a variety of strategies to extend science learning and exploration beyond the classroom.*
- *The graduate selects appropriate technology tools that support science instruction and learning for elementary students.*
- *The graduate evaluates assessment information to inform instructional decision making and support science education for all students.*

- *The graduate plans science instruction that supports the development of scientific knowledge, inquiry, and reasoning in elementary students.*
- *The graduate evaluates the alignment of science standards, learning outcomes, benchmarks, and objectives in the development of science education for elementary students.*
- *The graduate creates interdisciplinary learning experiences that effectively incorporate the concepts and modes of scientific inquiry.*
- *The graduate integrates effective instructional approaches to support science inquiry in the development of science education for elementary students.*
- *The graduate integrates appropriate science concepts, skills, and processes in the development of science education for elementary students.*
- *The graduate integrates developmentally appropriate strategies and approaches that support science literacy into the planning of science learning environments.*
- *The graduate plans instruction in science education that provides equitable opportunities for all children.*

## **Elementary Social Studies Methods**

Elementary Social Studies Methods helps students learn how to implement effective social studies instruction in the elementary classroom. Topics include social studies themes, promoting cultural diversity, integrated social studies across the curriculum, social studies learning environments, assessing social studies understanding, differentiated instruction for social studies, technology for social studies instruction, and standards-based social studies instruction. This course is designed to be taken after successful completion of Introduction to Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment OR Introduction to Instructional Planning and Presentation AND Instructional Planning and Presentation in Elementary or Special Education.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate creates interdisciplinary learning experiences that effectively incorporate the concepts and modes of inquiry of social studies.*
- *The graduate integrates effective instructional approaches that promote elementary students' growing ability to value diversity and develop connections between their community and culture.*
- *The graduate evaluates assessment information to inform instructional decision-making and support social studies education for all students.*
- *The graduate develops engaging learning experiences for elementary students that promote research, analysis, and evaluation of real-world situations.*
- *The graduate integrates effective instructional approaches that promote informed and engaged citizenship in a diverse and interdependent democratic society into social studies learning activities.*
- *The graduate integrates appropriate themes, concepts, and modes of inquiry in the development of social studies education for elementary students.*
- *The graduate plans instruction in social studies education that provides equitable opportunities for all students.*
- *The graduate plans developmentally appropriate, healthy, safe, and inclusive learning environments that promote social studies learning.*
- *The graduate selects appropriate technology tools that support social studies instruction and learning for elementary students.*
- *The graduate integrates social studies standards, learning outcomes, benchmarks, and objectives in the development of social studies education for elementary students.*

## **Elementary Physical Education and Health Methods**

Elementary Physical Education and Health Methods helps students learn how to implement effective physical and health education instruction in the elementary classroom. Topics include healthy lifestyles, student safety, student nutrition, physical education, differentiated instruction for physical and health education, physical education across the curriculum, and public policy in health and physical education. This course is designed to be taken after successful completion of Introduction to Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment OR Introduction to Instructional Planning and Presentation AND Instructional Planning and Presentation in Elementary or Special Education.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate creates relevant and meaningful learning experiences that integrate elementary physical education across other disciplines.*

- *The graduate recommends instructional and behavioral strategies that promote healthy nutritional habits in elementary students.*
- *The graduate plans developmentally appropriate educational activities that provide elementary students with the knowledge, skills, fitness, and attitudes necessary to lead a healthy lifestyle.*
- *The graduate develops active learning opportunities to accommodate all elementary students, including those with varied abilities, needs, backgrounds, and interests to promote meaningful, relevant, and engaging student-focused physical education.*
- *The graduate plans learning environments that promote the health and safety of elementary students.*
- *The graduate integrates current research and public policy into the planning, promotion, and advocacy for educational programs that support the health, safety, and well-being of all elementary students.*
- *The graduate integrates movement concepts, principles, strategies, and approaches in the development of physical education lesson and unit plans for elementary students.*
- *The graduate selects instructional and behavioral strategies that support healthy lifestyles and address health concerns of elementary students.*

## **Elementary Visual and Performing Arts Methods**

Elementary Visual and Performing Arts Methods helps students learn how to implement effective visual and performing arts instruction in the elementary classroom. Topics include integrating arts across the curriculum, music education, visual arts, dance and movement, dramatic arts, differentiating instruction for visual and performing arts, and promoting cultural diversity through visual and performing arts instruction. This course is designed to be taken after successful completion of Introduction to Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment OR Introduction to Instructional Planning and Presentation AND Instructional Planning and Presentation in Elementary or Special Education.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate develops learning opportunities that allow students to explore the cultural dimensions and contributions of the arts from diverse places, peoples, and periods.*
- *The graduate effectively incorporates central concepts, inquiry tools, standards, and structures of the dramatic arts in the design of learning experiences for elementary students.*
- *The graduate evaluates the impact of the visual and performing arts on childhood learning and development.*
- *The graduate effectively incorporates central concepts, tools, and structures of music in the design of learning experiences for elementary students.*
- *The graduate develops relevant and meaningful learning experiences that integrate visual and performing arts into other disciplines for elementary students.*
- *The graduate integrates the content, functions, and achievements of performing and visual arts into the design of creative, engaging, and cooperative instruction and learning environments for elementary students.*
- *The graduate develops learning opportunities that allow for the full and equitable participation in and expression through the arts for students with diverse abilities, needs, backgrounds, and interests.*
- *The graduate effectively incorporates central concepts, inquiry tools, standards, and structures of dance and movement in the design of learning experiences for elementary students.*
- *The graduate effectively incorporates central concepts, inquiry tools, standards, and structures of visual arts in the design of learning experiences for elementary students.*

## **Elementary Disciplinary Literacy**

Elementary Disciplinary Literacy examines teaching strategies designed to help learners in grades K–6 develop the literacy skills necessary to read, write, and think critically while engaging content in different academic disciplines. Course content highlights strategies to help learners distinguish between the unique characteristics of informational texts while improving comprehension and writing proficiency across the curriculum. Strategies to encourage inquiry and cultivate skills in critical thinking, collaboration, and creativity also are addressed. This course is designed to be taken after successful completion of Introduction to Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment OR Introduction to Instructional Planning and Presentation AND Instructional Planning and Presentation in Elementary or Special Education.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate integrates instructional strategies and materials in disciplinary literacy practices to enhance student understanding within specific disciplines at the elementary level.*

- *The graduate integrates discipline-specific literacy instruction to help elementary students make meaning from the text structures, vocabulary, and language features found in a variety of discipline-specific texts.*
- *The graduate plans differentiated lessons and units to help students develop language and literacy skills within the disciplines.*
- *The graduate creates authentic learning tasks that provide students with opportunities to demonstrate digital literacy and discipline-specific understandings.*
- *The graduate plans authentic writing activities to promote understanding of discipline-specific content.*
- *The graduate distinguishes between the basic strategies used to facilitate comprehension in the elementary content areas and the specialized reading practices needed to comprehend text in a specific discipline.*

## **Children's Literature**

Children's Literature is an introduction to and exploration of children's literature. Students will consider and analyze children's literature as a lens through which to view the world. Students will experience multiple genres, historical perspectives, cultural representations, and current applications in the field of children's literature. This course is designed to be taken after successful completion of Introduction to Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment OR Introduction to Instructional Planning and Presentation AND Instructional Planning and Presentation in Elementary or Special Education.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate analyzes various genres of children's literature to understand the characteristics of each genre.*
- *The graduate develops learning experiences that integrate diverse representations from children's literature to help students gain a perspective for understanding the world.*
- *The graduate recommends appropriate texts in children's literature that align with instructional goals to meet the individual learning needs of students.*
- *The graduate creates cross-curricular learning experiences that support, motivate, and engage students when interacting with children's literature.*
- *The graduate determines how literary and visual elements are used to convey common themes found in children's literature.*

## **Pre-Clinical Experiences**

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### **Preclinical Experiences in Elementary Education**

Preclinical Experiences in Elementary provides students the opportunity to observe and participate in a wide range of in-classroom teaching experiences in order to develop the skills and confidence necessary to be an effective teacher. Students will reflect on and document the 75 hours of in-classroom observation and experience in their performance assessments. Prior to entering the classroom for the observations, students will be required to meet several requirements including a cleared background check, passing scores on the state or WGU required basic skills exam and a completed resume.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate evaluates various applications of technological integration in support of learning for all students.*
- *The graduate develops a classroom management plan that integrates best practices for engagement and motivation.*
- *The graduate collaborates with a mentor teacher in the planning and delivery of instruction in a classroom setting.*
- *The graduate evaluates the theoretical and practical implications of various content knowledge applications, tools of inquiry, instructional strategies, models and trends in the context of classrooms and schools.*
- *The graduate evaluates the theoretical and practical applications of various assessment practices as they relate to student learning and instructional design.*
- *The graduate evaluates educational observations and experiences connected to professional practices to support the development of appropriate teaching dispositions and a personal teaching philosophy.*
- *The graduate evaluates the theoretical, legal, ethical, and practical applications of teaching students with exceptional learning needs.*
- *The graduate evaluates the theoretical and practical implications of various strategies that are intended to support the use of academic language, metacognition, and communication in classroom contexts.*

## **Synthesis of Education**

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## Research Writing

Research Writing engages students in the process of researching a topic related to the history of education in the United States and presenting it in a formal written project.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate understands and implements the research writing process to produce clear, concise, and mechanically correct documents.*

## Educational Theory and Analysis

Educational Theory and Analysis requires students to read a selection of books on diversity in education, alternative viewpoints in education, and future trends in education; write a reading summary for each; and participate in a discussion of each book with the course mentor and fellow students.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *This competency exists to assess the readiness of students.*
- *The graduate applies theoretical knowledge and personal reflection to discussions in a collaborative learning setting.*
- *The graduate relates principles of educational theory to his/her own personal perspective on education and to present issues and future trends in education.*

## Educational Theory Synthesis and Evaluation

Educational Theory Synthesis and Evaluation provides students an opportunity to conduct online research, evaluate and synthesize information, create a paper that represents their personal vision for the future of education, and develop a multimedia presentation based on their work.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *This competency exists to assess the readiness of students.*
- *The graduate prepares an annotated bibliography of representative works on educational theory, trends, and practices.*

## Theoretical Reasoning and Problem Solving

Theoretical Reasoning and Problem Solving covers planning and information gathering; problem identification and clarification; identification of assumptions and values; interpretation and analysis of information/data; reaching well-founded conclusions; and writing a research paper related to educational issues, trends, and practices.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *This competency exists to assess the readiness of students.*
- *The graduate will demonstrate the ability to analyze and synthesize concepts and ideas from a variety of sources into a written vision of the purpose and structure of schools of the future.*

## Educational Studies Integration

Educational Studies Integration includes the synthesis and integration of educational ideas into a multimedia presentation.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *This competency exists to assess the readiness of students.*
- *The graduate effectively incorporates ideas into a formal presentation.*

## Need More Information? WGU Student Services

WGU's Student Services team is dedicated exclusively to helping you achieve your academic goals. The Student Services office is available during extended hours to assist with general questions and administrative or accessibility issues. The Student Services team members help you resolve issues, listen to student issues and concerns, and make recommendations for improving policy and practice based on student feedback. The Student Services team provides a formal means by which you can express your views, which in turn will inform the decisions we make.

Student Services team members also assist with unresolved concerns to find equitable resolutions. To contact the Student Services team, please feel free to call 877-435-7948 or e-mail [studentservices@wgu.edu](mailto:studentservices@wgu.edu). We are available Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., mountain standard time. Closed Sundays.

If you have inquiries or concerns that require technical support, please contact the WGU IT Service Desk. The IT Service Desk is available Monday through Friday, 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., mountain standard time. To contact the IT Service Desk, please call 1-877-HELP-WGU (877-435-7948) or e-mail [servicedesk@wgu.edu](mailto:servicedesk@wgu.edu). The support teams are generally closed in observance of university holidays.

For the most current information regarding WGU support services, please visit "Student Support" on the Student Portal at <http://my.wgu.edu>.