MAJORING IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Today’s children in elementary classrooms have unprecedented opportunities to engage with an increasingly diverse group of fellow learners, new technologies, and inspiring teachers who help to make learning come alive in an array of content areas. You probably remember several effective teachers from your elementary school years; teachers whose knowledge and excitement of literacy or mathematics or science grabbed your attention; teachers who believed you were a capable learner and who helped you develop the knowledge and problem-solving skills that provided the foundation for your future learning. Becoming an elementary teacher is more than a sequence of university courses coupled with spending time in classrooms. More than ever, our children need inspiring and knowledgeable teachers who themselves are active learners—effective educators who want to make a difference in the lives of children and in their communities.

In the Department of Teaching and Learning’s Elementary Education program, becoming a teacher is a journey of transformation from theory to practical knowledge gained by working side by side with university faculty, skilled mentor teachers, and children.

THE CURRICULUM

Students majoring in Elementary Education may earn one of two degrees: the Bachelor of Science or the Bachelor of Arts. Most students earn the B.S. degree because education is a social science; however, some students select the B.A. which requires a foreign language. The teacher preparation program in the Department of Teaching and Learning is designed to provide extensive field-based experience in elementary classrooms. Through these experiences, teacher candidates actively engage in processes of teaching and learning within several school contexts as they work with teachers, students and other members of the school community. Thus, there are opportunities to experience both traditional academic coursework and direct mentoring and supervision from teachers in the profession. By providing a balance between theoretical and practical aspects of the profession, we believe we are providing the very best preparation possible. There are currently several program options available for those interested in pursuing a degree in Elementary Education.
Elementary teachers interested in teaching in Nevada are enjoying a steady rate of employment. A high percentage of our graduates are readily employed by the Clark County School District. The current effort to attract high-tech industry to Nevada will increase the need for teachers in the state—not only in science and mathematics, but also in other areas. Additionally, teachers of English as a second language are in demand. Although most graduates enter public school teaching, other opportunities exist for people interested in teaching in private educational settings.

“Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.”

John Dewey

The Department of Teaching & Learning is housed in the William D. Carlson Education Building. This facility includes the curriculum Materials Library, which features a children’s book collection, curriculum guides used in school districts across the country, games, videos, transparency production equipment, and ditto and lamination machines. The center is one of the best of its kind and one where elementary education majors spend much of their time.

The Literacy Development Center, also located in the Carlson Education Building, serves as a training laboratory for UNLV students who are earning advanced degrees with a specialization in reading. The center assists university students who wish to improve their reading skills, as well as young people and adults from the community who need help.

The department faculty is committed to excellence in teaching, and its members come from top universities across the country. The advising program and small class size encourage close contact, which often results in personal and professional relationships that continue beyond graduation.

UNLV is committed to academic excellence in each of its more than 200 undergraduate and graduate programs. Following a decade of unprecedented growth in enrollment and facilities, the campus is now focusing its resources on those qualities which make a university great: its academic offerings, its faculty, and its students. All academic programs at UNLV are fully accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities.

UNLV is located on a 332-acre main campus and two satellite campuses in dynamic Southern Nevada. The university is classified in the category of Research Universities (high research activity) by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

ABOUT UNLV:
Student Enrollment: 27,000+
Degree Programs: Over 200
Undergraduate, Master’s, and Doctoral
Student to Faculty Ratio: 21:1

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