

Elementary Education

School of Education

Elementary Education Program (<https://www.uaf.edu/soe/academics.php>)
907-474-7341

Department Overview

The University of Alaska Fairbanks complies fully with the institutional reporting requirements mandated in Title II of the Higher Education Act Amendments of 1998. Please contact the School of Education for a copy of the report.

The School of Education prepares students from across Alaska, as well as from other states and nations, to work in urban and rural Alaska and to work with multicultural and minority — especially Alaska Native — students. To fulfill our commitment to enhancing educational opportunities for the state's rural and Native populations, faculty actively and knowledgeably utilize educational technology to deliver all School of Education programs to students in most areas of the state.

The School of Education offers bachelor's degrees in elementary education and secondary education, and postbaccalaureate programs are offered in elementary education, secondary education, counseling and special education.

Courses are available on-site and by distance delivery through the Kuskokwim, Bristol Bay, Chukchi and Northwest campuses, as well as on the Troth Yeddha' Campus in Fairbanks. Faculty research in cross-cultural studies, curriculum and instruction, language and literacy and small rural schools supports the mission of the School of Education.

Candidates for all School of Education programs are required to have a laptop computer. Laptops may be of any type but must have capacities that enable candidates to meet School of Education requirements. If you have questions about how a laptop purchase will fit in with your current financial aid package, please contact the UAF Financial Aid Office.

Licensure Information

UAF education programs are approved by the Alaska State Board of Education standards and accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (<http://caepnet.org/>).

The School of Education is approved by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development to recommend its students for Alaska licensure as elementary and secondary teachers, school counselors and special education teachers.

The State of Alaska requires that all initial applicants for a teaching certificate pass a Basic Competency Exam (<https://education.alaska.gov/teachercertification/praxis/>) from the list of exams accepted by the Alaska State Department of Education and Early Development.

In addition, Content Area Examinations (Praxis II) (<https://education.alaska.gov/teachercertification/contentareaexams/>) are required for the Initial 2-3 Year, Professional and Master teaching certificates. A list of accepted exams and passing scores is available on the Alaska State Department of Education and Early Development website.

B.A., Elementary Education (K-8)

The Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education is a hands-on degree that prepares students for high-demand teaching careers in Alaska and across the country. Numerous fieldwork experiences, including a year-long internship, complement coursework in a wide range of content areas. The integrated major/minor degree requirements are designed to prepare students to meet standards that recognize, respect and build upon Alaska's cultural, linguistic and geographic factors. Completion of the B.A. in elementary education will meet the requirements for both a major and minor.

Students in the Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education degree program are assessed relative to national standards, including the Council for Accreditation Educator Preparation (CAEP) Standards and the Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (InTASC) Standards. Coursework, fieldwork and/or the internship can be completed anywhere in Alaska. Coursework can all be completed remotely or with a combination of modalities, including face-to-face classes in Anchorage and Fairbanks.

The interdisciplinary degree requirements provide breadth in the content areas necessary for successful teaching at an elementary level. They provide depth in the opportunities to connect theory and practice in real classroom, school and community contexts. Students completing this degree benefit from collaborative efforts with academic departments across campus and from School of Education partnerships with a wide range of Alaska's rural and urban schools and districts.

The degree has four central components:

1. subject area coursework in the designated UAF general education requirements;
2. additional subject area coursework in those areas important for successful teaching at an elementary level;
3. an integrated set of education courses and fieldwork in schools and the community to provide the foundation for a successful professional internship year; and
4. a yearlong capstone school internship with a mentor teacher, with concurrent enrollment in professional coursework that focuses on the integration and application of theory, research and practice in real school environments. Students follow the calendar of the school or district in which they complete their internship.

Minimum Requirements for Elementary Education Bachelor's Degree: 122 credits

Learn more about the bachelor's degree in elementary education (K-8) (<https://uaf.edu/academics/programs/bachelors/elementary-education.php>), including an overview of the program, career opportunities and more.

Each state has its own unique requirements for licensure or certification. If seeking a professional license or certificate in a state other than Alaska, please see the state listings on this page (<https://www.uaf.edu/provost/uaf-state-authorization/licensure.php>).

M.Ed., Elementary Education

Following completion of the yearlong UAF postbaccalaureate elementary licensure program, students can pursue the M.Ed. degree in elementary education if they choose to do so. Fifteen specified graduate credits from the elementary licensure program can be used to meet the M.Ed. elementary education requirements. Courses are available through UAF by distance

delivery and on the Troth Yeddha' Campus in Fairbanks. Students can enroll in courses throughout the year. Licensure and master's degree requirements must be met within seven years of the beginning of the program.

Students who have completed undergraduate courses ED F110, ED F201, ED F330, ED F344 and EDSE F316 as part of their licensure program must complete additional graduate-level coursework to receive a master's degree. Please contact the School of Education Student Services Office for additional information.

Minimum Requirements for Elementary Education Master's Degree: 45 credits

Learn more about the master's degree in elementary education (<https://uaf.edu/academics/programs/masters/elementary-education.php>), including an overview of the program, career opportunities and more.

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Certificate, Local Knowledge Educator

The local knowledge educator certificate is a 30-credit undergraduate certificate program intended to provide individuals interested in the teaching profession with a benchmark credential that will set them on a path to a bachelor's degree in elementary or secondary education. 27-30 of the credits in the certificate program will apply to the elementary B.A. degree, and 18 of the credits will apply to a secondary B.A. degree.

The coursework in the local knowledge educator certificate program represents a collection of courses that have low barriers to entry (i.e., no prerequisites), fulfill the general university requirements for a certificate program, and provide an individual interested in working in a non-certificated K-12-based position (e.g., as a substitute teacher or a paraprofessional) with a strong introduction to the teaching profession and content knowledge relevant to work in a school context. The collection of classes can both enhance individual knowledge of Alaska and Alaska's Indigenous cultures, as well as equip future educators with tools that will help them incorporate their own local knowledge into K-12 classrooms now and in the future.

Minimum Requirements for Local Knowledge Educator Certificate: 30 credits

Postbaccalaureate License, Elementary (K-8)

This program is offered across the state of Alaska, with internship opportunities in Fairbanks, Anchorage, Mat-Su and most other districts across the state. The elementary teacher postbaccalaureate program is an intensive, year-long program designed to provide students with the coursework and internship experience necessary to meet the Alaska Teacher Standards and be eligible for licensure as an elementary teacher in Alaska. This classroom-based program is built upon the principle of partnership — a cooperative effort between interns, mentor teachers and university faculty partners.

Students begin the program in the summer with a 9-credit block of courses. Students who complete the undergraduate courses ED F110, ED F201, ED F330, ED F344 and EDSE F316 can use these to fulfill the summer requirements. During the academic year of the school district, all students complete two semesters of integrated university courses and an internship.

Students must apply through the Office of the Registrar to graduate with a certificate of completion. At the end of the school year, if students have

successfully met all of the program requirements, they will be eligible to apply for an Alaska Elementary License.

Elementary applicants apply as graduate-level licensure students. They may choose to complete this licensure program as part of the M.Ed. degree in elementary education. However, application to the M.Ed. degree program should be made at the beginning of elementary postbaccalaureate coursework to avoid losing credits for the M.Ed. degree. (See M.Ed. elementary education (<https://catalog.uaf.edu/masters/elementary-education/>) options requirements.) Candidates who enter the elementary postbaccalaureate licensure program are required to have laptop computers prior to enrolling in ED F344 or ED F624.

Minimum Requirements for Elementary Education Postbaccalaureate Licensure: 39 credits

Learn more about the postbaccalaureate license in elementary education (<https://uaf.edu/academics/programs/post-bachelor-certification/postbaccalaureate-certificate.php>), including an overview of the program, career opportunities and more.

Each state has its own unique requirements for licensure or certification. If seeking a professional license or certificate in a state other than Alaska, please see the state listings on this page (<https://www.uaf.edu/provost/uaf-state-authorization/licensure.php>).

Programs

Degrees

- B.A., Elementary Education (K-8) (<https://catalog.uaf.edu/bachelors/elementary-education-k-8-ba/>)
- M.Ed., Elementary Education (<https://catalog.uaf.edu/masters/elementary-education/>)

Certificate

- Certificate, Local Knowledge Educator (<https://catalog.uaf.edu/certificates/local-knowledge-educator/>)

Postbaccalaureate Certificate

- Postbaccalaureate Certificate and Licensure, Elementary (K-8) (<https://catalog.uaf.edu/pbct/elementary-k-8-education/>)

Minors

- Minor, Elementary Education (<https://catalog.uaf.edu/minors/elementary-education/>)
- Minor, General Education (<https://catalog.uaf.edu/minors/general-education/>)