

MAJOR IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

The Elementary Education major (*available beginning Fall 2027*) prepares future educators to teach learners in grades K-6. The program is designed to develop humanizing, student-centered teachers who bring deep knowledge of pedagogy, differentiated instruction, and strategies that support mental health and well-being of all learners.

The program integrates field experiences in elementary schools with pedagogical courses to ensure future teachers have opportunities to apply what they are learning in classroom contexts. The program equips future elementary teachers with the professional knowledge, practical skills, and reflective habits necessary for success, resilience, and long-term retention in the teaching profession.

This major is a competitive entry program (<https://admissions.colostate.edu/apply/competitive-majors/>).

Licensure Eligibility Requirements

This is a Colorado state–approved educator preparation program. To be eligible to apply for a Colorado Teaching License*, students must successfully complete the following:

- Maintain a minimum 2.75 cumulative CSU GPA
- Complete all professional education coursework with a grade of C or higher

- Successfully complete all field experience courses, as outlined in course syllabi
- Complete and earn the Elementary Education degree

*Licensure requirements vary by state. Completion of these Colorado requirements may not meet licensing criteria elsewhere. Students planning to teach outside Colorado are strongly encouraged to research the specific licensure requirements of the states in which they intend to reside after graduation.

For more information, visit Educator Preparation (<https://www.chhs.colostate.edu/soe/educator-preparation/>).

Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of the major, students will be able to:

1. Establish an elementary classroom environment where students feel they belong, have a voice, can take risks, and are valued for what they bring to the learning process.
2. Demonstrate interdisciplinary pedagogical expertise, grounded in elementary research-based instructional strategies and an understanding of the cognitive, social/emotional, and cultural assets/needs of the whole child.
3. Support their students' mental health, well-being and social/emotional learning needs through the use of trauma informed and restorative practices teacher-relational skills and culturally sustaining practices.
4. Plan and implement effective, responsive instruction that differentiates to meet individual student needs.

Requirements

Effective Fall 2027

Students must earn a cumulative 2.50 GPA in all AUCC courses and a minimum grade of a C (2.00) in EDEL/EDCO core and concentration courses, including courses used as substitutions.

Freshman

		AUCC	Credits
CO 150	College Composition (GT-CO2)	1A	3
EDEL 120	Foundations of Elementary Special Education		3
EDEL 230	Elementary Curriculum Development		3
EDUC 175	Identity Literacy and Education Dialogues	1C	3
EDUC 275	Schools, Society, and Self (GT-SS3)	3C	3
Select one course from the following:			3
MATH 101	Math in the Social Sciences (GT-MA1)	1B	
MATH 105	Patterns of Phenomena (GT-MA1)	1B	
STAT 100	Statistical Literacy (GT-MA1)	1B	
STAT 201	General Statistics (GT-MA1)	1B	
Select a minimum of 3 credits from the following:			3-4
AA 100	Introduction to Astronomy (GT-SC2)	3A	
AA 101	Astronomy Laboratory (GT-SC1)	3A	
AB 111	Feeding the World in a Changing Climate	3A	
ANTH 120	Human Origins and Variation (GT-SC2)	3A	
ANTH 121	Human Origins and Variation Laboratory (GT-SC1)	3A	
BZ 101	Life Matters - Genes, the Body, and Beyond (GT-SC2)	3A	
BZ 110	Principles of Animal Biology (GT-SC2)	3A	

BZ 111	Animal Biology Laboratory (GT-SC1)	3A	
BZ 120	Principles of Plant Biology (GT-SC1)	3A	
ERHS 220	Introduction to Environmental Public Health	3A	
FTEC 155	Introduction to Food Science	3A	
FW 104	Wildlife Ecology and Conservation (GT-SC2)	3A	
GEOL 110	Introduction to Geology-Parks and Monuments (GT-SC2)	3A	
GEOL 120	Geology and Society (GT-SC2)	3A	
GEOL 121	Experiential Geoscience Laboratory (GT-SC1)	3A	
GEOL 122	Geoscience–Climate and Environmental Change (GT-SC2)	3A	
GR 110	Introduction to Physical Geography (GT-SC2)	3A	
GR 111	Introduction to Physical Geography Lab (GT-SC1)	3A	
HONR 292A	Honors Seminar: Knowing in the Sciences	3A	
HORT 100	Horticultural Science	3A	
LIFE 102	Attributes of Living Systems (GT-SC1)	3A	
LIFE 103	Biology of Organisms-Animals and Plants	3A	
MIP 101	Introduction to Human Disease and Immunity (GT-SC2)	3A	
NR 130	Global Environmental Systems (GT-SC2)	3A	
Electives			9
Total Credits			30-31
Sophomore			
EDCO 210	Mental Health Elementary Child Development		3
EDCO 310	Mental Health Skills for Elementary Teachers		4
EDEL 210	Creating an Inclusive Classroom Environment		2
EDEL 220	Assessment and Data in Elementary Education		3
EDEL 240	Foundations of Literacy Instruction		3
EDEL 286A	Elementary Instruction Practicum: I		1
EDEL 286B	Elementary Instruction Practicum: II		1
Select one course from the following:			3
CO 300	Writing Arguments (GT-CO3)	2	
CO 301C	Writing in the Disciplines: Social Sciences (GT-CO3)	2	
CO 301D	Writing in the Disciplines: Education (GT-CO3)	2	
CO 302	Writing in Digital Environments (GT-CO3)	2	
JTC 300	Strategic Writing and Communication (GT-CO3)	2	
Select one course from the following:			3
AMST 100	Self/Community in American Culture, 1600-1877 (GT-HI1)	3D	
AMST 101	Self/Community in American Culture Since 1877 (GT-HI1)	3D	
ETST 250/HIST 250	African American History (GT-HI1)	3D	
ETST 252/HIST 252	Asian American History (GT-HI1)	3D	
ETST 253	Chicanx History and Culture (GT-HI1)	3D	
ETST 255/HIST 255	Native American History (GT-HI1)	3D	
HIST 150	U.S. History to 1876 (GT-HI1)	3D	
HIST 151	U.S. History Since 1876 (GT-HI1)	3D	
Arts and Humanities (https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#arts-humanities)		3B	3
Biological and Physical Sciences (https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#biological-physical-science) ¹		3A	3-4
Elective			3
Total Credits			32-33
Junior			
EDEL 260	Children's Literature in Elementary Education		3

EDEL 320	Differentiation in the Elementary Classroom	3
EDEL 330	Elementary Mathematical Thinking	3
EDEL 340	Elementary Science Methods	3
EDEL 350	Elementary Social Studies Methods	3
EDEL 360	Diagnostics of Teaching Reading	3
EDEL 370	Writing in the Elementary Classroom	3
EDEL 375	Language Acquisition and Teaching	3
EDEL 386A	Elementary Instruction Practicum: III	1
EDEL 386B	Elementary Instruction Practicum: IV	1
Arts and Humanities (https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/ 3B #art-humanities)		3

Total Credits	29
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Senior

EDEL 410	Special Education Instructional Practices	3
EDEL 420	Elementary Interdisciplinary Methods	3
EDEL 440	Elementary Mathematics Methods	3
EDEL 450	Methods of Teaching Multilingual Learners	3
EDEL 470	Life in Elementary Classrooms	1
EDEL 479	Elementary Education Capstone	4C 2
EDEL 485	Elementary Student Teaching	4A,4B 12
EDEL 486A	Elementary Instruction Practicum: V	1
Elective ²		1

Total Credits	29
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Program Total Credits:	120
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¹ Choose from the list of AUCC 3A courses provided in Freshman year. At least one course used to satisfy this requirement must have a laboratory component.

² Select enough elective credits to bring the program total to a minimum of 120 credits, of which at least 42 must be upper-division (300- to 400-level).

Major Completion Map

Distinctive Requirements for Degree Program:

Pre-Elementary Education Admission Pathway

The School of Education will establish a "Pre-Elementary Education" distinction that is an open-entry major for incoming first-year students or transfer students who wish to become eligible to apply for the Elementary Education program in their second year. The application process is such that students must be in the Pre-Elementary Education distinction and then in the third semester (each fall semester) students apply to the Elementary Education program, which follows a competitive entry process. To be eligible for admission, students must:

- Complete the Elementary Education Degree Program Application (will be available through the School of Education to students in the Pre-Elementary Education distinction pathway students only).
- Complete EDEL 120, EDEL 230, **EDUC 175**, **EDUC 275** (with a C or better)
- Complete a minimum of 28 total credits.
- Hold a 2.50 cumulative GPA

Due to limited space in the major (60 students per year), in addition to the minimum qualifications above, students will be admitted based on factors such as GPA, statement of purpose and a letter of recommendation.

Once admitted all EDEL and EDCO courses must be completed with a grade of C or higher. Additionally, background checks are required prior to participation in the second-year field placement course.

Students not admitted into the program will work with an advisor to determine a pathway from one of the following options:

- Transition into another CSU major that aligns with their academic interests and preserves progress toward graduation. Academic advisors will work with students to identify majors that best apply previously completed coursework.

- Consider educator preparation programs already offered at CSU, such as Early Childhood Education, K-12/Secondary Education Preparation, which may allow them to apply relevant coursework toward a teacher licensure pathway.

Background check required prior to participating in field placement course in their sophomore year.

Freshman

Semester 1		Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
CO 150	College Composition (GT-CO2)		X	1A	3
EDUC 175	Identity Literacy and Education Dialogues	X		1C	3
Biological and Physical Sciences (see list on Program Requirements tab)			X	3A	3-4
Electives			X		6
Total Credits					15-16
Semester 2		Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
EDEL 120	Foundations of Elementary Special Education	X			3
EDEL 230	Elementary Curriculum Development	X			3
EDUC 275	Schools, Society, and Self (GT-SS3)	X		3C	3
Select one course from the following:		X			3
MATH 101	Math in the Social Sciences (GT-MA1)			1B	
MATH 105	Patterns of Phenomena (GT-MA1)			1B	
STAT 100	Statistical Literacy (GT-MA1)			1B	
STAT 201	General Statistics (GT-MA1)			1B	
Elective			X		3
Total Credits					15

Sophomore

Semester 3		Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
EDCO 210	Mental Health Elementary Child Development	X			3
EDEL 240	Foundations of Literacy Instruction	X			3
EDEL 286A	Elementary Instruction Practicum: I	X			1
Advanced Writing (see list on Program Requirements tab)			X	2	3
Historical Perspectives (see list on Program Requirements tab)			X	3D	3
Elective					3
Total Credits					16
Semester 4		Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
EDCO 310	Mental Health Skills for Elementary Teachers	X			4
EDEL 210	Creating an Inclusive Classroom Environment	X			2
EDEL 220	Assessment and Data in Elementary Education	X			3
EDEL 286B	Elementary Instruction Practicum: II	X			1
Biological and Physical Sciences (see list on Program Requirements tab)			X	3A	3-4
Arts and Humanities (https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#arts-humanities)			X	3B	3
Total Credits					16-17

Junior

Semester 5		Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
EDEL 260	Children's Literature in Elementary Education	X			3
EDEL 320	Differentiation in the Elementary Classroom	X			3
EDEL 330	Elementary Mathematical Thinking	X			3
EDEL 340	Elementary Science Methods	X			3
EDEL 386A	Elementary Instruction Practicum: III	X			1
Arts and Humanities (https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#arts-humanities)				3B	3
Total Credits					16
Semester 6		Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
EDEL 350	Elementary Social Studies Methods	X			3

EDEL 360	Diagnostics of Teaching Reading	X			3
EDEL 370	Writing in the Elementary Classroom	X			3
EDEL 375	Language Acquisition and Teaching	X			3
EDEL 386B	Elementary Instruction Practicum: IV	X			1
Total Credits					13
Senior					
Semester 7		Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
EDEL 410	Special Education Instructional Practices	X			3
EDEL 420	Elementary Interdisciplinary Methods	X			3
EDEL 440	Elementary Mathematics Methods	X			3
EDEL 450	Methods of Teaching Multilingual Learners	X			3
EDEL 470	Life in Elementary Classrooms	X			1
EDEL 486A	Elementary Instruction Practicum: V	X			1
Elective			X		1
Total Credits					15
Semester 8		Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
EDEL 479	Elementary Education Capstone	X		4C	2
EDEL 485	Elementary Student Teaching	X		4A,4B	12
Total Credits					14
Program Total Credits:					120