

# Major Planning Guide: Elementary Education

## What can I do with a degree in elementary education?

Students who major in elementary education usually plan to teach elementary/middle school after graduation. Most students are motivated by a strong desire to work with children and help them succeed academically and socially. Most education majors plan to become classroom teachers, but some will go on to pursue other related careers.

## Related Majors/Endorsements

Educational Studies	Bilingual Education
Early Childhood Education	Science Education
Special Education	Physical Education
Teaching English as a Second Language	Music Education

## Where can I earn a bachelor's degree in elementary education in Washington?

Certain universities offer elementary education as an undergraduate major. You can use the College Navigator search engine found at <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator> to find elementary education programs in Washington state or around the country.

## How do I prepare to major in elementary education?

Here are a few steps that we recommend you take to make sure that elementary education is the right choice for you. There are many different types of careers in education, and it is important to do some research ahead of time to find the one that best fits your goals. An advisor can help you choose the transfer degree, and what courses you should take while you are here at Seattle Central.

### Step One: Research

- Those who are undecided about a major/career can make an appointment with our Career Exploration Center in BE 1102E take a career assessment test. This assessment can reveal your interests, values, and skills which then match you up with potential careers and programs that prepare you for specific career paths.
- Teaching elementary school requires a broad background in many academic disciplines, including math, science, social science, and English. Whether you plan to pursue a bachelor's or post-baccalaureate in elementary education, you should contact the programs to find out what classes you should take to best prepare for your program.
- Our Transfer Center in BE 1102F can help find universities you are interested in attending and guide you through the application process.

## Step Two: Pick a Degree

Students planning to major in elementary education often earn the Associates of Art (AA-DTA) degree. Advisors can help students understand what courses to take for transfer. You may pick up a degree planning worksheet for the AA-DTA ([purple sheet](#)) in BE 1102 lobby.

## Step Three: Make a Long Range Academic Plan

Students planning to major in elementary education at a university usually take courses in a broad range of academic areas, as well as general education requirements, to prepare to transfer. You should consult with an advisor at Seattle Central to make sure you take the appropriate courses to be prepared to enter the major. Check prerequisites, admission requirements, and GPA requirements at your intended transfer university early so you can be well-prepared to transfer.

## What is the academic path to become an elementary school teacher?

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Public schools and some private schools in the United States require teachers to have valid teaching certificates.

Students who plan to teach elementary school have a variety of educational pathways for receiving a teaching certificate. Some universities offer elementary education as an undergraduate major; graduates of those programs can teach with a bachelor's degree. Other universities – such as the University of Washington-Seattle and Seattle University – do not offer elementary education as an undergraduate major, but offer graduate degrees.

Most programs in elementary education offer a general degree that will prepare graduates to teach a wide range of subjects that elementary school teachers cover. Depending on the program, students can add a minor or endorsement from a specialized area. Endorsements to the elementary education undergraduate major may include *special education, literacy specialist, science education, bilingual education and TESL* (Teaching English as a Second Language). Students interested in teaching *music, physical education, or art* at the elementary school level should pursue a major in that specific field of education.

## What are my next steps?

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- Once you have had the chance to explore the career opportunities in elementary education you might want to schedule an appointment to meet with an advisor to plan out your course of study. You can make an appointment by stopping by the Advising office in BE 1102D or calling us at 206-934-4068. (*If you are an international student, please stop by International Education Programs in BE 1113*).
- Attend Transfer Fairs and Career & Networking Fairs hosted by our office throughout the year.
- Explore the professional organizations in your area of interest for more information about education and career options.

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