



## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

### We're more than you think.

We are proud of our reputation as the flagship teacher education program in South Carolina and the region. Our program leads students to successful teaching careers because we ensure that what we teach is relevant to the workplace and that we challenge and inspire those who come to us. With \$7 million federal funding through the Teacher Quality Partnership program, we are creating a new model of undergraduate teacher preparation. As you will see, our commitment to leadership, stewardship, collaboration and innovation exemplifies all that we do.

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# Elementary Education

## *Preparing teachers for the ever-changing world of elementary education*

### The Major

The B.S. in elementary education is a degree program for undergraduate students at Winthrop University who wish to teach and earn an initial South Carolina teaching certification for grades 2-6. Elementary education majors develop content and pedagogical knowledge as they explore current research and best practice. Students pursuing a degree in elementary education also benefit from engaging hands-on experiences and meaningful visits to local schools. The curriculum focuses on a conceptual framework—Teacher as Educational Leader—and prepares Winthrop's graduates for the ever-changing world of education.

#### *Elementary Education Majors:*

- ◆ Are prepared to teach in 21st century schools;
- ◆ Learn to develop research-based strategies to implement our belief that all children can learn;
- ◆ Are prepared to effectively integrate available technology and resources to reach all learners and connect them to the world beyond the classroom.

### The Program

Students pursuing a Bachelor of Science in elementary education are exposed to a wide range of instruction that prepares them for teaching in today's classrooms. The NCATE-accredited program incorporates a research-based curriculum with practical, real world classroom experiences in area elementary schools. The major requires 63 semester hours in the professional education sequence, including approximately 29 semester hours in the core curriculum. Elementary education students also learn to integrate the latest technology into the classroom curriculum. The planned field experience sequence

includes numerous professional interactions with teachers in local public schools.

### Internships

All elementary education majors are required to complete diverse field-based experiences. At Winthrop, these experiences are comprised of two components. The first places students in appropriate elementary-level classrooms two days per week, over a 14-week period, in observation and tutorial roles. The second consists of 60 full days of internship under the guidance of a master classroom teacher. Other courses also require additional field experiences. Internship sites are located in Rock Hill and neighboring school districts.

### Student Organizations

Elementary education majors connect to the classroom and the world through student organizations. Students are encouraged to become members of the South Carolina chapter of the National Education Association. The Kappa Delta Pi International honor society is also available for education majors who achieve high academic honors. These organizations meet regularly and sponsor activities and guest speakers.

### Certification

The B.S. in elementary education is a degree program for undergraduate students at Winthrop University who wish to teach and earn an initial South Carolina teaching certification for grades 2-6.

### Careers

Upon graduation, most elementary education majors attain work as a classroom teacher. Some students choose to begin graduate school as they work toward leadership positions in education.

## Graduate School

Because of state requirements, continuing professional development is essential and necessary for all elementary education graduates. Winthrop University offers Professional Development Courses (WPDC) for re-certification or other professional development needs. Winthrop University also offers a Master of Education in curriculum and instruction with options in elementary education.

## Faculty

The education faculty at Winthrop are highly devoted to teaching. All of the full-time teaching faculty hold their terminal degree, a Ph.D. or Ed.D., indicating a high level of knowledge of their specialty areas. They also participate in a variety of professional activities, coordinate Winthrop programs, and volunteer in the Rock Hill community. Education majors have plenty of opportunity to interact with their professors and establish the contacts they will need for advanced study and employment.

## How Does the Program Work?

The elementary education program provides students with a broad academic background and the professional education knowledge and skills necessary for elementary teachers in grades 2-6. The undergraduate program in elementary education is a 124 semester-hour program leading to a Bachelor of Science in education. All students seeking to complete a degree that leads to teacher certification must be formally admitted to the Teacher Education Program when they have 45 hours and have met other requirements. The Professional Education sequence for elementary education requires 63 hours of coursework focused on the development of pedagogical and content knowledge.



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