Program Overview
The Bachelor of Science in elementary education (B.S. ELEM) program at Winthrop University prepares teachers who are seeking initial certification in grades 2-6. The 126-hour program also includes coursework to be certified in early childhood education (grades Pre-K to 3). Our carefully planned curriculum provides students with a broad academic background and the professional education knowledge and skills necessary for teachers in elementary classrooms.

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The Richard W. Riley College of Education

We are proud of our reputation as the flagship teacher education program in South Carolina and the region. Our programs lead students to successful teaching careers because they are relevant to today’s schools. We seek to inspire educators with a commitment to leadership, stewardship, collaboration and innovation.

Internships and Field Experiences

Students pursuing a degree in elementary education learn from engaging, hands-on and meaningful field experiences in local schools. Beginning in the freshman year, our elementary education teacher candidates participate in field experiences in public school settings. They accumulate an average of 1,200 hours in early childhood and elementary classrooms, including a yearlong internship in their senior year.

School Partnerships

The Richard W. Riley College of Education maintains a strong partnership network with the Professional Development Schools (PDS), Partner and Satellite Schools in nine districts surrounding the university.

The Curriculum in Elementary Education

Elementary education majors explore current research and best practices as they develop content and pedagogical knowledge in literacy, math, science and social studies for today’s classroom with:

• General education courses;
• Methods courses that reflect contemporary trends in education and;
• Literacy development for early childhood and elementary learners.

Elementary Education Majors:

• Are prepared to teach in 21st century schools;
• Learn to develop research-based practices 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.

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.

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. Student organizations provide opportunities for candidates to participate in a variety of volunteer services and shared experiences/activities. These organizations meet regularly and sponsor activities and guest speakers.

KAPPA DELTA PI is an international honor society in education that was established to foster excellence in education and to promote fellowship among those dedicated to teaching.

The Palmetto State Teacher’s Association is a club for all education majors in good standing. This group is dedicated to the mission of insuring that every child in the state of South Carolina earns a quality education.

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.

National Accreditation

The B.S. in elementary education program is nationally accredited by the Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI). The Richard W. Riley College of Education is nationally accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).