

# Elementary Education (K-8)

## School of Education

### Outcomes

With a professional degree in elementary education, careers are possible in Public Elementary Schools, Private Elementary Schools, Private Educational Business, Agency Child Care, and Community Youth Organizations.

### Contact Information

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### Testimonial

"The Peru State College education department has given me the tools that will prepare me for a dynamic teaching career. The faculty and staff are very supportive, making the learning process personal and enjoyable. I am confident that I will be well prepared for my first job, because I have been supplied with the information and resources that will help me succeed in schools and be a positive influence on students for a lifetime."

Jessica McKim  
Elementary/Middle Grades Education Major  
Class of 2007

### Program Definition

Elementary Education will endorse an individual to teach grades Kindergarten through eight in the state of Nebraska in a self contained classroom. This program combines a solid foundation of courses in humanities, mathematics, science and social sciences with professional education courses. Professional courses include professional practices, classroom management and effective teaching, educational psychology, tests and measurements, introduction to special education, diversity in education and field based experiences. Students preparing to become elementary educators learn to focus on the developmental and cognitive needs of children. Elementary Education majors are provided experiences in a variety of settings as they develop an understanding of how to meet the needs of diverse learners in the school and community.

The Elementary Education practicum experience includes a minimum of three practicum placements that allow students to explore various grade levels and apply the strategies from their concurrent methods courses that they are completing. Each experience requires a level of integration within the classroom as the student develops his or her instructional and management skills. Student teaching is the culminating experience where the student demonstrates his/her knowledge and skills as a pre-service teacher. This supervised 16-week experience provides an opportunity to proactive teaching in a supportive and developmental setting. This program can be completed in 4 years.

### PSC Points of Distinction

- Teacher education programs at Peru State College are National Council for Accreditation (NCATE) accredited.
- Only 3 courses and a 1 hour practicum are needed to add an Early Childhood Education endorsement to this Elementary Option, making the student even more marketable!
- Methods courses incorporate numerous opportunities to interact with area elementary schools. The Social Studies Methods class has for the past twenty years sponsored Social Studies Fairs at area Elementary Schools, where Peru students spend around twenty hours of practicum time working with approximately 100 elementary students to help them develop projects for the fair each year.
- The Peru Student Education Association (PSEA) is very active on campus and continues to win numerous awards each year at state and national levels, including the Student Education Association of Nebraska (SEAN) Chapter Excellence Award. PSEA members hold an annual Dr. Suess' birthday celebration on Peru's campus each spring semester, bringing over 1,200 elementary students from area schools to campus to celebrate reading.
- Peru State College has had a chapter of Kappa Delta Pi (The National Honor Society for Undergraduate Education Majors) for over seventy-five years. Each year the chapter inducts between 35-45 new members. Members have opportunities to attend area and national conventions and to participate in a variety of activities involving public school students. Kappa Delta Pi also offers scholarships to its members.
- Each program at Peru State College is reviewed on a continual basis and coursework is updated to meet evolving standards.
- Students completing a degree at Peru State College are prepared to attend the nation's top graduate schools in all program areas. Many graduates return to Peru State for their masters degree, which can be completed online and in our accelerated format.
- Minor in a subject area outside of the major is simple at Peru State and can broaden the scope of knowledge and can improve employment prospects for any student.

### Facilities

*Curriculum level of library*—Our award-winning library houses an entire level just for education majors! This features a variety of multimedia and other state-of-the-art materials for students preparing to teach at the secondary and K-12 levels.

*Methods Classroom*—This classroom is filled with hands-on materials to assist in instructional application methods and is the perfect learning environment for education majors.

### Program Expectations

1. Free from disciplinary probation.
2. Overall grade point average of at least 2.5
3. Minimum scores on the Pre Professional Skills Test (PPST) as follows: Reading 170, Math 171, Writing 172
4. Evidence of proficiency in English Composition and Mathematics as indicated by a grade of C or above in college level courses.
5. Reflect appropriate professional dispositions in an initial interview and throughout the program.

### Faculty

Ms. Gina Bittner, M.Ed. - Instructor of Education  
Dr. Anthony Citrin, Ed.D. - Professor of Education  
Mr. Ryan Knipplemeyer, M.Ed. - Instructor of Education  
Dr. Beverly Urbach, Ph.D. - Assistant Professor of Education

### Required Coursework

Program information available online at <http://www.peru.edu/education/programs/>