

Middle Grades Education (4th–9th)

School of Education

Outcomes

With a professional degree in middle grades education, careers are possible in Public Elementary and/or Middle Grade Schools, Private Elementary and/or Middle Grade 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

This program prepares an individual for endorsement to teach: (A) any or all students in a self-contained classroom in grades 4-9, (B) the areas of special preparation in an integrated team planning/teaching organizational pattern in grades 4-9, or (C) the areas of special preparation in classrooms with other organizational patterns in grades 4-9.

The middle grades endorsement prepares students to teach in a minimum of two content areas chosen from art, business, language arts, mathematics, natural sciences, physical education, social sciences, and special education. A minimum of 18 distinct semester hours in each of two of these areas is required.

The Middle Grades Education practicum experience includes a minimum of four practicum placements that allow them 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. One of these practicums is required to be in a middle or junior high school in one of their specific content areas. Student teaching is the culminating experience where the student demonstrates his or her knowledge and skills as a pre-service teacher. This supervised 16-week experience provides an opportunity to practice teaching in a supportive and developmental setting. The student teaching experience is required to be in a middle grade or junior high school in one, both, or all of a student's specific content area(s). 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 5 extra courses are needed to add an elementary education endorsement to this middle grades option, which would endorse a student to teach grades Kindergarten – nine, making the student even more marketable.
- Methods courses incorporate numerous opportunities to interact with area elementary schools. (Events include the Social Studies Fair, Reading Clinic, and Math Brain Quest, which are held each semester.)
- 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 and state of the art technology 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.
6. Background check.

Faculty

Dr. Judith Ruskamp
Dr. Cheryl Blue

Required Coursework

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