A CLOSER LOOK
Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education

Elementary Education

The UA South Elementary Education Program is a professional teacher preparation program that leads to Arizona elementary certification in grades K-8 and is dedicated to preparing reflective, competent, responsive, and professional teachers. Students are provided support right from the start, with academic and financial aid advising, orientations, challenging coursework, and placement in school classrooms every semester.

The program has close partnerships with schools in Pima, Santa Cruz, and Cochise Counties. Teacher candidates have ongoing opportunities to put theory into practice, develop teaching competencies, and receive guidance from professional classroom teachers and university mentors. As a cohort experience, students find a strong support system designed to foster the beginning of a professional teaching network.

Elementary Education is offered in the following locations: Sierra Vista, Pima County, Douglas, Santa Cruz County

About Faculty:

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Dr. Laurie S. Seder holds a doctorate in Special Education and Rehabilitation as well as a Master’s degree in Educational Psychology from The University of Arizona. Her Bachelor of Arts degree is in Special Education from Arizona State University. Her academic research interests include reading disabilities; general education supports for children with disabilities in inclusive classrooms, and developmentally appropriate practices for early childhood environments.

What are 5 Benefits of Graduating with a BS in Elementary Education from UA South?

1. **BA vs. BS** – UA South offers the BS which is marketable because it requires more science coursework, so teachers in our program are prepared to teach math and science and to pass required state exams for teacher certification.

2. **Institutional Recommendation (IR)** - As an Approved Teacher Preparation Program, UA South provides program graduates with an IR, which guarantees a teaching certificate as long as graduates pass required state exams, pay all fees, and maintain an active fingerprint card.

3. **Clinical Practice** - Students are placed in classrooms every semester - to observe, assist students, and teach lessons - so that they are competent and confident to enter their own classrooms after graduation.

4. **Mock Interviews** - Students participate in mock interviews with education professionals from school districts in their community. School administrators that are hiring teachers attend the mock interviews and UA South students are often hired prior to graduation.

5. **Exit Goals and Program Requirements**:

   - **Student Teaching Seminars** (1st Half of the Semester)
     - Issues related to the classroom environment: standards, classroom management, policies

   - **Student Teaching Seminars** (2nd Half of the Semester)
     - Professional preparation: interview skills, resume writing, mock interviews

   - **Professional Portfolio**
     - 1. Philosophy of Education/lesson plans/photos
     - 2. Hard copy for resume and electronic version

   - **Exit Goals and Program Requirements**

   - **Senior Capstone Project**
     - 1. Asks an essential question about teaching
     - 2. Presentation of findings that demonstrates growth in teaching practice
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What Courses are in the Program?
The Elementary Education Program is an intensive learning experience that combines classroom lecture and discussion with structured practicum and internship experiences in area schools. The final semester of the program requires a full-time commitment to a student teaching internship.

I. Junior-Year Sequence
Teacher candidates enroll in the following courses:
- Structured English Immersion (SEI)
- Creative Arts in Context
- Teaching Exceptional Children
- Classroom Management and Instruction
- Literacy in Elementary School
- Technology for Educators
- Assessment in Education
- Clinical Practice (Field Studies) – Each semester students are required to spend one half day per week for a minimum of 45 hours per semester in the classroom

II. Methods Sequence
During the first semester of the senior year, teacher candidates enroll in a 16 credit block of methods courses.
- Reading Instruction and Assessment
- Language Arts Instruction and Assessment
- Social Studies Instruction and Assessment
- Math Instruction and Assessment
- Science Instruction and Assessment
- Clinical Practice (Field Studies) – Students are required to spend one full day per week for a minimum of 90 hours in the classroom

III. Student Teaching
During the final semester of the program, teacher candidates enroll in a 15-week student teaching internship that includes:
- Full-time student teaching experience, supported by a classroom mentor and a university mentor
- Participation in student teaching seminars
- Research and presentation of a Senior Action Research Capstone project
- Development of a professional portfolio

Teachers are knowledgeable, caring, positive, organized, committed and are effective communicators. These are attributes that employers across vast job fields seek. There are many jobs in addition to teaching that include, but are not limited to:

**Business and Industry**
- Training and Development
- Human Resources
- Customer Service
- Publishing and Writing
- Counseling

**Higher Education**
- Youth Program Management
- Tutoring
- Mentoring
- Research
- Student Services Administration

**Government**
- Planning
- Evaluation
- Management
- Research and Writing
- Social Work

**Adult and Continuing Education**
- Staff Development
- Professional Development
- GED Preparation
- Literacy Development
- English as a Second Language

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Questions?
For more information, reach out to a UAS representative.
You can find one in your area by visiting our website at:
http://www.uas.arizona.edu