

Elementary Education

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Program Mission: [The Graduate Program in Elementary Education advances scholarly preparation by providing quality teaching and promoting excellence in research/creative activity in order for graduate students to exemplify best teaching practices for children from birth through age fourteen. The graduate curriculum encompasses comprehensive content knowledge and promotes the use of critical thinking and problem solving to cultivate teacher-researchers who are empowered to serve as leaders in the profession. Faculty members challenge students to bridge the gap between theory and practice as they develop the skills required for ethical and effective collaboration and communication within the local school community and a culturally diverse, technologically advanced global environment.](#)

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Accreditation: National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and North Central Association.

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Admission Requirements: To be eligible for degree candidacy, applicants must meet all of the requirements for admission to the Graduate School (see "[Admission to Graduate Degree and Certificate Programs](#)") In addition students must:

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Deleted: The Department of Early Childhood, Elementary, and Middle Level Education seeks to advance scholarly preparation by providing quality teaching and promoting excellence in research activity in order for graduate students to exemplify best teaching practices for children from birth through age fourteen. The department is dedicated to the preparation of knowledgeable citizens of the 21st century and seeks to empower individuals to meet the challenges faced by professional educators in a rapidly changing society. Candidates for the Master of Science in Education Degree will be prepared to teach in diverse environments recognizing multiple pathways of learning. The Department is committed to enhancing the graduate academic experience in order to create educators who can function effectively in a culturally diverse, technologically advanced, and global environment in order to engage learning at all levels.

- Complete and submit the departmental admission application with additional information as outlined:

1. A copy of transcripts showing the required 3.0 GPA within the last 60 hours of undergraduate study (or 3.0 GPA in the first 12 hours of graduate coursework).
2. A copy of current teaching certificate (including type, issuing state, and year granted.) If the individual does not have certification at the appropriate level he/she will need to complete the course work necessary for certification which may entail undergraduate and graduate credits.
3. Two letters of recommendation provided by professional sources, such as an immediate supervisor and/or co-worker are required. The letters of recommendation should address such topics as the candidate's:
 - depth of content knowledge including effective technology skills and ethical behaviors/dispositions;
 - critical thinking and problem solving;
 - oral and written communication skills;
 - advanced scholarship (research and/or creative activity);
 - ability to work with diverse clientele; and
 - ability to collaborate and create positive relationships within the school, community, and profession.
4. A professional resume that includes information regarding undergraduate education, work experience, recent professional development activities (i.e., workshops attended and/or workshops presented), involvement with professional education organizations, and volunteer work within the community (involving children/youth) must be developed and submitted.
5. A formal (typed) letter of application expressing the applicant's goals for the master's program is required. Within the letter of application, please describe a professional situation that required you (the applicant) to employ critical thinking and/or problem solving to resolve an issue.
6. Complete and submit the "Advanced Candidate Self-Assessment Form" that is available on the Department web site (<http://www.eiu.edu/~elegrad>).

Degree Audit: The graduate plan of study is the EIU Degree Audit, which is generated automatically in the Degree Audit Reporting System (DARS) at the time of degree or certificate candidacy. Modifications of the standard EIU Degree Audit are submitted by the graduate coordinator to the certification officer in the Graduate School at the time modifications are approved. The Degree Audit serves as an unofficial summary of requirements for the program. Degree and certificate candidates are advised to review the comprehensive summary of the Degree Audit process specified on the "Requirements for All Degree and Certificate Candidates" section of the *Graduate Catalog*. Individual programs may require candidates to submit plans of study in addition to the Degree Audit, candidates should consult with the program coordinator.

Degree Requirements

Degree requirements include those outlined for the master of science in education degree by the Graduate School (see "[Requirements for the Master of Science in Education Degree](#)"). Additional requirements include a minimum of 15 semester hours in an emphasis area from Early Childhood, Elementary Education or Middle Level Education, or Reading courses, and a thesis or applied/action research requirement. Evening classes, off-campus classes, summer sessions and independent study arrangements are offered, permitting students to pursue graduate degrees while meeting other personal and professional commitments.

The course of study consists of 35-36 semester hours of course credit with a thesis or applied/action research requirement. The program is designed to encompass three areas: basic courses in education (these courses provide a background in fundamental educational theory), specific requirements in an area of emphasis and a research component.

The program is devoted to the field of elementary education with opportunities for study in the emphasis areas such as early childhood, elementary curriculum, middle level, and reading. Students may choose courses according to individual needs, professional interests, and teaching level. Courses in reading may be selected which will lead to the Illinois reading teacher endorsement and meet the standards of the International Reading Association.

Program of Studies

The program of studies for candidates requires minimally 35-36 semester hours of course work. The program consists of : Basic Education, Area of Emphasis, and Research Components.

Basic Education

Credits: Minimum of 6 hours of Departmental Basic Education Courses: (Prerequisites must be completed as needed for admission to Teacher Education for Post-Baccalaureate certification with Master's.)

- [ELE 5260 - Advanced Developmental Reading](#), Credits: 3
- [ELE 5270 - Content Area Literacy Instruction](#), Credits: 3

College Basic Education Courses

Select 8-9 hours of College Basic Education Courses from the following:

- OR
 - [ELE 5310 - Foundations: ESL-Bilingual Ed.](#), Credits: 3
 - [EDF 5310 - Foundations: ESL-Bilingual Ed.](#), Credits: 3
 - [EDF 5500 - Theory Into Practice: Curriculum Development](#), Credits: 3
 - [EDF 5510 - Theory Into Practice: Social Foundations for Educational Practice](#), Credits: 3
 - [EDF 5530 - Theory Into Practice: Philosophy for Educational Practice](#), Credits: 2
 - [EDF 5535 - Philosophy of Education: Clinical](#), Credits: 2
 - [EDF 5540 - Theory Into Practice: History for Educational Practice](#), Credits: 2
 - [EDF 5550 - Comparative and International Education](#), Credits: 3
 - [EDP 5300 - Theory into Practice: Psychological Foundations for Educational Practice](#), Credits: 3

Area of Emphasis

Select one Area of Emphasis: 15 semester hours.

Emphasis in Early Childhood

- [ELE 5500 - Creativity, Play, and the Brain of the Young Child](#) Credits: 3
- Select 6 hours of Special Education Courses from:
 - [SPE 5131 - Topics in Special Education](#), Credits: 1
 - [SPE 5132 - Topics in Special Education](#), Credits: 2
 - [SPE 5133 - Topics in Special Education](#), Credits: 3
- [SPE 5620 - A Family-Focused Approach for Providing Services to Families with Children Identified as Exceptional](#), Credits: 3
 - [SPE 5840 - Infant and Toddler Assessment](#), Credits: 3

Guided Electives

Guided Electives: Select 6 hours from:

- if not already completed for BSED
 - [ELE 4770 - Methods and Curriculum in the Primary Grades](#), Credits: 3
 - [ELE 4775 - Language and Language Arts in Early Childhood](#), Credits: 3
- if not already completed for BSED
 - [ELE 4776 - Early Childhood Education: History and Philosophy](#), Credits: 3
- if not already completed for BSED
 - [FCS 4851 - Infant Development](#), Credits: 3
 - [FCS 4854 - Parent-Child Study and Community Involvement](#), Credits: 3
 - [PSY 5022 - Individual Intellectual Assessment](#), Credits: 4

Emphasis in Elementary Curriculum

Credits: 15

- [ELE 5640 - Teaching and Supervision of Social Studies in Elementary and Middle Schools](#), Credits: 3
 - [ELE 5650 - Language Arts in the Elementary and Middle School](#), Credits: 3
 - [ELE 5660 - Science Curriculum in the Elementary and Middle School](#), Credits: 3
 - [MAT 5400 - The Teaching of Mathematics in Grades K-6](#), Credits: 3
- Guided Electives: Select 3 hours from ELE 5400 or ELE5700

Emphasis in Middle Level Education

Credits: 15

- Select 3 hours from:
 - [ELE 5640 - Teaching and Supervision of Social Studies in Elementary and Middle Schools](#), Credits: 3
 - [ELE 5650 - Language Arts in the Elementary and Middle School](#), Credits: 3
 - [MAT 5500 - Methods of Teaching Mathematics at Middle Level](#), Credits: 3
 - [ELE 5660 - Science Curriculum in the Elementary and Middle School](#), Credits: 3
- Select a minimum of 6 hours from:
 - [MLE 5110 - Principles and Procedures in the Middle-Level School](#), Credits: 3
 - [MLE 5150 - Interdisciplinary Curriculum in the Middle-Level School](#), Credits: 3
 - [MLE 5400 - Topics in School Middle Level Education](#), Credits: 1 to 3
 - [MLE 5700 - Seminar in Middle/Junior High School Education](#), Credits: 1 to 3
- Select additional hours to total 15. Content area classes taken in content area subject matter: ENG 4903, 4905, 4906, 4801; MAT 5535, 5400, 5810; SCI 5000, 5002; HIS Special Topics Courses

Emphasis in Reading

Credits:

15

Reading Teacher Endorsement:

- Students need a total of 24 semester hours of reading instruction (graduate or undergraduate) in areas/topics that are aligned with the Reading Teacher Standards in order to receive the Reading Teacher endorsement.
- Students must also complete coursework (graduate or undergraduate) that addresses "literature appropriate to students across all grade ranges" in order to meet the guidelines for the Reading Teacher endorsement. Any one

of the following courses could be taken as an elective at the graduate level to meet this requirement: ENG 4903, 4905; ELE 5400, 5990.

- The Reading Teacher endorsement also requires the applicant to successfully complete the Reading Teacher content area test.
 - [ELE 5600 - Diagnosis of Reading Problems](#), Credits: 3
 - [ELE 5610 - Remediation of Reading Problems](#), Credits: 3
 - [ELE 5650 - Language Arts in the Elementary and Middle School](#), Credits: 3
- Guided Elective: Select 3 hours in consultation with advisor.

Research Component

Credits: 6

- [ELE 5250 - Research in Education](#) Credits: 3

Graduate Assistantships

Information on graduate assistantships may be obtained by contacting the Coordinator of Graduate Studies or Chair, Early Childhood, Elementary and Middle Level Education, 2220 Buzzard Hall, EIU.