The University of Wisconsin–Madison Elementary Education Program prepares teachers to foster high academic achievement in all students—no matter who they are or what zipcode they were born into. In our program, teachers-to-be learn to recognize how their own backgrounds shape their thinking and actions, how racial hierarchies disserve all students, and how powerful teachers can change kids’ lives.

Schools are places that can both increase equity and perpetuate injustice, which are ideas our students tackle as they learn to navigate the challenges and joys of teaching. Our goal is for all our graduates to become teacher leaders committed to advancing justice through classroom practices, personal interactions and community engagement. We teach research-based practices that keep teachers growing throughout long careers.

At UW–Madison, our students learn to teach through exhilarating coursework, supervised fieldwork, community-based experiences, rigorous self-examination, and powerful and authentic learning experiences. We are training teachers to recognize, appreciate and value the wide range of gifts diverse students bring to our increasingly multicultural, globally connected and morally complex world.

NEW CERTIFICATION OPTIONS STARTING FALL, 2022!

Beginning in the fall of 2022, the Elementary Education Program will look quite different from its current structure. In response to changes by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI), new certification options have been created that will certify students to teach in the grade levels of K-9, K-12, and/or Early Childhood (approximately birth through age 8). These new certification options will give students more choices as they plan their career paths.

As part of the restructuring, new courses were developed and all certification options were designed to be completed in four semesters. These changes align well with the priorities of the School of Education’s Teacher Pledge (https://tec.education.wisc.edu/teacher-pledge/) program. In its final stages of approval, this restructuring has provided an opportunity for the program to refocus on its social justice mission.

Effective with fall, 2022 program admission, the Elementary Education Program will offer five options. Admitted students begin a four-semester professional sequence in the fall.

- **Kindergarten through Ninth Grade (Single Certification) -** Students completing this certification option successfully are certified to teach in kindergarten through ninth grade classrooms.

- **Kindergarten through Ninth Grade and English as a Second Language K-12 (Dual Certification) -** Students who complete this certification option successfully are certified in the general education of grades kindergarten through ninth grade and in English as a Second Language for grades kindergarten through twelfth grade.

- **Kindergarten through Ninth Grade and Early Childhood Education (Dual Certification) -** Students who complete this certification option successfully are certified in the general education of grades kindergarten through ninth grade and in Early Childhood Education (approximately birth through age 8).

- **Kindergarten through Ninth Grade and Special Education K-12 (Dual Certification & Major) -** Students completing this option successfully are double majors in Elementary Education and Special Education. Students are certified in general education for grades kindergarten through ninth grade, and Special Education grades kindergarten through twelfth.

- **Kindergarten through Ninth Grade, Early Childhood Education, and English as a Second Language K-12 (Triple Certification) -** In this certification option, successful students receive certification in three areas: general education for grades kindergarten through ninth grade, Early Childhood Education, and English as a Second Language in grades kindergarten through twelfth.

Course requirements vary by certification option, so students should consult with their Student Services advisors often.

Visit here (https://ci.education.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate-majors/) for more information on the new certification options coming in Fall, 2022.

CURRENT PROGRAM OPTIONS

- **Early Childhood/English as a Second Language** - Students in this program option are certified in Early Childhood and also in English as a Second Language at the Early Childhood level.

- **Middle Childhood—Early Adolescence/English as a Second Language** - Students completing this program option successfully are certified in Elementary Education and in English as a Second Language, both at the Middle Childhood—Early Adolescence levels.

- **Middle Childhood—Early Adolescence/Special Education program** - Students are certified in Special Education and Elementary Education, both at the Middle Childhood—Early Adolescence levels.

- **Middle Childhood—Early Adolescence/Content Focused Minor program** - Students completing this program option successfully are certified in Elementary Education and also in one of four broad areas (social studies, mathematics, science or language arts) reflecting the subject area of the minor. Both certifications are at the Middle Childhood—Early Adolescence level.

Formal definitions of Early Childhood and Middle Childhood—Early Adolescence levels are determined by each school district based on the organizational structure of its schools and the philosophy and needs of the district.