

Classroom Experience

Western's teacher education program was one of the first in the nation to require its students to participate in elementary and secondary school classrooms early in the program, rather than waiting until students are almost ready to graduate. This helps you decide if a teaching career is right for you.

As an Education major, you will move through four phases of involvement in the school classroom. Beginning in their sophomore year, teacher candidates begin to observe and assist in area classrooms in elementary and secondary schools, and the level of responsibility increases each year.

As students advance in the program, they visit classrooms for short periods of time to focus on teaching methods, then participate in two classes and a field experience. Those experiences culminate in a semester-long student teaching experience.

In addition, teacher candidates mentor students and complete service learning projects that reinforce the concepts learned in class.

The Education Department also has video cameras in classrooms so students can practice teaching and reflect upon their performance.



Alumni Views

“Upon re-entering college as a nontraditional student, many professors became not only my mentors, but friends and colleagues. The Education Department was my home

away from home, and I spent many hours with those wonderful professors – always questioning, listening, and being challenged to my utmost potential. I loved that feeling.”

Debbie Lyons, M.S. Ed., '91, Coordinator of Building Bridges St. Joseph School District

“Transitioning between college and the classroom was easy because of the experiences I received in the teacher education program at Western. The service learning experiences out in the elementary school gave me a familiarity with real teaching that surpassed other beginning teachers. I am proud to say that Missouri Western State University equipped me with the necessary tools to reach my full potential as a teacher.”

Kit L. Blake, '81, Teacher Education Faculty Member Missouri Western State University

For more information

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Education

Missouri Western State University





Education Department

When you see the look of understanding on the face of a student, it is the greatest feeling in the world. If you want a meaningful career working with students, then consider becoming a teacher.

BECOMING A TEACHER LEADER: TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR STUDENT LEARNING.

Teaching is a challenging and rewarding career. Western's program, a perfect blend of theory and practice, is proven in providing the classwork and training that students need to become excellent teachers. Over the course of their college careers, Education majors spend many hours in preschool, elementary and secondary classrooms gaining valuable practical experience and insight.

The Western Teacher Education Program creates leaders in education, who take responsibility for student learning, know how children learn and can manage the complex relationships and demands of

today's classrooms. Students and faculty work together in small classes and in the field. This close relationship helps connect the theory learned in the classroom with experience in the schools. The faculty members in the Education department have teaching experience in preschool, elementary or high schools, so they bring valuable insights into the university classroom.

Students who plan to teach at the elementary level (grades 1-6) will have a choice of additional areas of study:

- Early Childhood Education (birth – three years)
- Early Childhood Special Education
- Middle School Education (fifth- through ninth-grades)
- Special Education Mild-Moderate Cross-Categorical (K-12)
- Special Reading (K-12)
- English
- Foreign Language
- Math/Computer Science
- Reading
- Science
- Social Science

Students seeking K-12 certification may choose from Art, Foreign Language, Music, or Physical Education.

Points of Pride

- **Our graduates consistently pass the Praxis II exit exam at a rate that is above state and national averages.**
- **One faculty member received a Regent's Distinguished Faculty Award.**
- **Western's teacher education program is approved at the state level by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and nationally by the National Association of Colleges for Teacher Education.**



Careers

Graduates from Western's teacher education program are in demand because school administrators across the state recognize the quality of the university's teacher education program.

Many alumni have continued their education to earn advanced degrees, and are now school principals and superintendents throughout the state and beyond. Graduates pursue master's degrees in curriculum and instruction, special education, reading, administration, or in their particular field of study.

Admission

Students must apply for admission into the teacher education program and meet the following criteria:

- ACT composite score of 22 or higher, or an SAT combined score of 1030 or higher (920 if taken before April 1995)
- C-BASE passing score on each subtest (these are taken as a college student)
- Cumulative GPA of 2.5 and satisfactory completion of two prerequisite courses