Students have the opportunity to participate in education-focused study abroad programs in Ireland, Nepal, New Zealand and Peru.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The elementary education program includes coursework and experiences leading to Michigan K-8 teacher certification. Students must complete content and methods courses, as well as a content major or two minors.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Students begin their studies in the pre-professional program. Special admission is required into the professional, upper-level courses (typically after the students sophomore year).

- Completion of 35 credits
- Completion of all WMU intellectual skills development requirements, if required
- Completion of an approved college-level writing course with a grade of “C” or better
- Completion of ED 2500: Human Development, or an approved course, with a grade of “CB” or better
- Achievement of a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher
- Completion of background check and submission of Judgment of Sentence or Register of Action for any convictions, if necessary
- Completion and submission of a formal application to the CEHD Office of Admissions and Advising

Michigan school principals ranked 97% of new teachers prepared at WMU as “effective” or “highly effective” in 2018-19.
CONTENT MAJORS

- Integrated Science
- Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Social Studies

CAREER POSSIBILITIES

- Teaching grades K-5 in all subjects
- Teaching grades K-8 in content area major
- Teaching grades K-8 in all subjects when teaching in a self-contained classroom

STUDY ABROAD

- The department offers short-term, education-related study abroad opportunities in Ireland, Nepal, and Peru. These faculty-led programs allow students to learn about educational systems outside of the United States.
- Students also have the opportunity to complete part of their student teaching experience abroad in New Zealand, which is known worldwide for its innovative approaches to teaching literacy.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

- Future Teachers of Color
- Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education
- Western Student Education Association

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation and the National Association for the Education of Young Children.
- At least one subject area test is required to earn teacher certification in the State of Michigan.
- Part-time and full-time internships are required

MY INSTRUCTORS ALWAYS PRESENTED ME WITH AMAZING OPPORTUNITIES. IT WAS AT WMU THAT I FOUND MY LOVE FOR TEACHING AND MY PASSION FOR LEARNING.

Brianne Hayes, elementary education alumna