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 is designed to prepare students to assume teaching responsibilities in two certified Michigan Department of Education Grade Bands: PK-3 and 3-6. A Bachelor of Science degree with a major in elementary education completes the course and clinical experience requirements for a Michigan Standard Teaching Certificate in both grade bands. Graduates of this program will be eligible to teach all subjects to PK-6 students in self-contained classrooms. This program does not require a minor.

**KEY FEATURES OF THE PROGRAM**

- In coursework and experiences leading to Michigan PK-3 and 3-6 teacher certification, WMU candidates will work with diverse communities on and off-campus to continually deepen their commitment to and demonstration of anti-racist, anti-bias, and inclusive instruction.
- Students begin required coursework upon entry to the University, whether as an incoming freshman or as a transfer student.
- In addition to their coursework, students actively engage in field experiences each year of the program, working with children in urban, suburban, and rural school sites, building skills and weaving theoretical understandings into practice.
- Students will complete 17 “pre-education” courses, achieving an overall GPA of a B or better to be admitted to the professional level courses.
- Students will complete 16 “professional-level education” courses, achieving a CB or better in each course.
- As the last semester of the program, students will complete a full-time internship within a partner school.

Michigan school principals ranked 99% of new teachers prepared at WMU as “effective” or “highly effective” in 2019-20.
CERTIFICATION AREAS

*Graduates of this program will be eligible to teach all subjects to PK-6 students in self-contained classrooms.*

- Integrated Science
- Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Social Studies

CAREER POSSIBILITIES

- Teaching grades PK-6 in all subjects

STUDY ABROAD

*Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, study abroad offerings are currently suspended until further notice.*

- 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.
- Passing scores on relevant MTTC subject area tests are required to earn teacher certification in the State of Michigan.
- Part-time clinical experiences begin the first year. A full-time internship occurs during the last semester of the program.

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