M.Ed. Elementary Education with Certification Emphasis
Information Packet & FAQs

Thank you for your interest in Northern Arizona University’s M.Ed. with Elementary Certification Program. Interested students will find the information contained within this packet helpful as they contemplate teacher preparation, research and explore the program and participate in the application process.

This packet contains the following important information:

- Frequently Asked Questions about the M.Ed. with Elementary Certification Program
- State Teacher Certification Requirements
- Content-Specific Prerequisites for the Program

Please contact your desired region of participation (Flagstaff, Phoenix, Tucson) via our website if you have questions regarding the content contained within this packet. We look forward to your application!
Frequently Asked Questions

In this program students earn a Master’s degree and Teacher Certification for grades K-8.

Frequently Asked Questions About the Degree and the Program

1. Will I earn a Master’s degree while I satisfy the Arizona Department of Education’s requirements for teacher certification?

Yes. Our M.Ed. with certification emphasis program combines course work, practicum (observation) experiences and student teaching. This will prepare you to take the Arizona certification exams (NES) and apply for state certification.

2. Do I need to take the GRE or GMAT as part of the application process?

No. Currently neither exam is required for the program.

3. What areas of specialization are available?

Once students are certified, they may seek endorsements by taking additional hours to qualify them in Reading, ESL, a particular subject, etc. Specific information regarding these endorsements can be found on the Arizona Department of Education website, http://ade.state.az.us/certification/requirements/Endorsements/ (ADE issues the endorsement, NAU offers the coursework.)

4. What are the highlights of the program?

- Least expensive graduate tuition in the state of Arizona
- Local classes
- Accelerated program
- Convenient combination of traditional and web courses
- Meaningful learning experiences
- Supervised field experience with feedback on teaching strategies and methods
- Master’s Degree with Certification
- Experienced Program Coordinator and Advisors to guide you through the entire program
- NAU’s outstanding reputation
5. **When can I start the program?**

   Students may begin in either the fall or spring semester, depending on region of interest. Applications are accepted throughout the year. Contact your desired region of participation (Flagstaff, Phoenix, Tucson) via our website for specific information.

6. **How do I apply?**

   Application to the Graduate College and Teacher Education Program can be made immediately online [https://www.applyweb.com/apply/northazg/](https://www.applyweb.com/apply/northazg/) or following transcript evaluation.

7. **Do I have to follow a specific course plan or may I take classes whenever they are convenient for me?**

   This is a cohort-based program. All students admitted will move through the program in a lock step fashion. “Jump in/jump out” participation/open enrollment is not encouraged. All courses must be taken within the program.

8. **What is a cohort?**

   A cohort is a group of students (usually about 25) admitted at the same time and who pursue the same courses as a group. Students report that they experience a great deal of support and camaraderie via the cohort structure.

9. **How long does the program take to complete?**

   The program takes seventeen months to complete. Students take classes in the spring, summer and fall semesters, and then student teach for the final semester of the program. They are then ready for job interviews after graduation. The job possibilities for elementary teachers in Arizona are numerous.

10. **What is practicum? Where does it take place?**

    Practicum is an observation/participation experience designed to prepare you for student teaching. The university will assist you in locating an appropriate master teacher from a local elementary school to observe. Practicum is supervised by the university and is a credit-bearing experience. Practicum students will observe mentor teachers and their students and will also participate in numerous classroom activities (teaching and other) during the experience.

11. **What is the format of coursework?**

    The courses hold the same intensity and rigor of all university graduate courses. Courses employ a variety of delivery systems including face to face and internet web classes. Also, as reflective of a real classroom, a variety of strategies and assignments are included: individual, small group, and large group instruction. Group and individual assignments, presentations,
projects and tests may be included. All courses are taught by experienced instructors who have spent many years teaching in elementary classrooms.

12. **What is the specific student teaching requirement? May I work during students teaching? Is student teaching a paid experience?**

Students must student teach for sixteen weeks (80 days) during the final semester of the program. Students are required to be at their assigned school five days a week for the duration of the school day during the student teaching experience. For this reason regular employment during student teaching is not possible. Finally, student teaching is an unpaid experience. Eleven credit hours are assigned to student teaching.

13. **What if I am currently Emergency or Intern Certified to teach in an Elementary classroom or if I am working in a private or charter school, do I still have to student teach?**

NAU has a plan to enable you to student teach while you are also teaching in your classroom. Here is how it works:

- You may register for the student teaching as a course with all the requirements of that class.
- The university provides a site supervisor for you just like we do for the others.
- You also sign up for the student teaching seminar class and attend it with others.
- You will then have a student teaching experience on your transcripts which will make it easier to find the perfect teaching job in or out of state.
- Instead of being in another classroom, you have a mentor teacher from your school who supports you with suggestions and encouragement.

14. **Does NAU accept transfer credit for this degree?**

NAU accepts limited transfer credit for this degree. Contact your advisor or lead faculty for details.

15. **Will I be certified upon graduation?**

No, certification is granted through the State of Arizona Department of Education. NAU provides you with an Institutional Recommendation certifying you have satisfactorily completed the requirements for the program. You will also need to take the NES (state certification) exams and apply for certification. For specific information, please visit the ADE’s website at: [http://www.ade.state.az.us/certification/](http://www.ade.state.az.us/certification/)

***NOTE:*** Passing scores on the NES Elementary Subtests I and II are required prior to student teaching. Student teaching placements are made with passing scores for these two exams are on file with the university. These tests, in addition to the NES Elementary Professional Knowledge exam, are also required for certification.
16. What are the specific admission requirements for the program?

To be considered students:
- Need an undergraduate degree from an accredited University or College.
- Need a grade of “B” or better in freshman English classes, a four-hour lab science class with a grade of C+ or better, and College Algebra or higher math class with a C or better.
- Must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher for unconditional admissions. For GPAs lower than 3.0, the Graduate College expects that A’s and B’s will be earned during the first semester to increase the GPA to 3.0 or higher. You will join with a conditional admittance.
- Must submit a completed application packet (online application and ancillary forms) -- sent electronically to you upon request.
- If a student is conditionally admitted, the student must complete/meet all of the above criteria or they will not be allowed to register for additional hours beyond the initial 9 hours.

17. What if I have an undergraduate degree, but do not have all of the above courses or required GPA?

You may still apply to the program, however, all prerequisite requirements must be met prior to being accepted into and starting the program. Is this a part-time program? Where and when are the courses offered?
M.Ed. with Certification Admission Process Steps

STEP ONE: Contact regional Lead Faculty for initial advising. This advising can be done by phone. After it is determined that you meet the basic admission requirements, complete steps two through six.

STEP TWO: Obtain copies of official and unofficial transcripts. The official copies will be mailed to the NAU Graduate College with your graduate application. The unofficial transcripts will accompany your application materials when they are mailed to the lead faculty for your program.

STEP THREE: Apply to the Teacher Education Program and Graduate College online. Complete all application paperwork. Be sure to keep a copy of each completed form for your own records. Pay the $65.00 fee.

STEP FOUR: Look for your Application Status to arrive via email.

STEP FIVE: Register for coursework. Accepted cohort students will obtain registration information directly from Dr. Diana Uyder as cohort classes do not appear on the open university schedule.

STEP SIX: Register for coursework. Accepted cohort students will obtain registration information directly from regional Lead Faculty as cohort classes do not appear on the open university schedule.
Certification Requirements

NES Exams: You will need to take the National Evaluation Series (NES) exam. You will be required to take and pass content exams pertaining to Elementary teaching areas (English, math, social studies and science) prior to student teaching. You will also take a professional knowledge exam on education theory, philosophy, methodology, etc. as part of the certification process. You must receive passing scores on these two examinations to be certified. NES preparation seminars are held periodically on campus and online through the APPEL office: http://nau.edu/COE/Student-Resources/APPEL/ Information about the NES can be found at http://www.nestest.com/.

U.S. Constitution Competency and an Arizona Constitution Competency (you have two years following initial certification to do this): To be certified in the state of Arizona you will need to complete a U.S. Constitution Competency and an Arizona Constitution Competency. These competencies can be met in the following ways:

By taking two courses:

1. U.S. Constitution
   - NAU HIS 291 or equivalent-U.S. History to 1865 OR
   - NAU POS 110 or equivalent-American Politics OR
   - CCC POS 222 or equivalent National constitution and Government

2. Arizona Constitution
   - NAU POS 241 or equivalent-State and Local Politics OR
   - POS 221 or equivalent _AZ constitution and government

***If you are interested, you can take the courses through Northland Pioneer College. The courses are fairly inexpensive and they are offered online at http://www.northland.cc.az.us/courses.htm

Or by taking one course
   - NAU POS 220 Federal and AZ Constitution or equivalent

Or by taking an examination
   - Contact the AEPA Office

Fingerprinting: Students are required to complete the fingerprint clearance at the time of admission. A copy of your IVP Fingerprint Clearance Card must be submitted for complete admission.

   - The clearance process takes approximately 3-8 weeks.
   - The processing fee is $69 (subject to change). Depending on the location, there may be an additional fee for fingerprinting.

Clearance cards are valid for six years (expiration date on card). If you have a valid card, you will not need a new card.

For additional information you may visit the State of Arizona Department of Safety website at http://www.azdps.gov/services/fingerprint/
M. Ed. in Elementary Education with Certification Emphasis
Department of Teaching & Learning
Chair: Dr. Pamela Powell

This terminal Master’s degree leads to an Institutional Recommendation for Elementary Teacher Certification in the State of Arizona. Students must pass the AEPA/NES exams for certification in addition to the following program requirements:

**Admission to the Master of Education with Certification requires:**

1. Admission to the NAU Graduate College and Teacher Education Program ([http://nau.edu/PEP/Student-Resources/](http://nau.edu/PEP/Student-Resources/))

2. Bachelor’s Degree from an accredited institution
   a. GPA of 3.0 – full admittance
   b. GPA below 3.0 – provisional admittance with allowance to achieve 3.0 in graduate-level work with first nine (9) credit hours

3. English Composition course(s) (English 101 & 102, NAU ENG 105, or equivalent English Composition/Writing course) with minimum GPA of 3.0

4. A math course equivalent to or higher than College Algebra or NAU MAT 114 with minimum grade of C

5. Laboratory Science course with minimum grade of C

6. ETC 545 or a one-credit educational technology course (ETC XXX)—This course is part of the program and will be scheduled for each cohort.

7. Application /Admission to M. Ed. Elementary with Certification Teacher Education Program

8. Completed Recommendation Form (included in application)

9. IVP Arizona Fingerprint Clearance card (a copy of both the front & back of the fingerprint clearance card must be on file prior to enrollment in Core Education classes)

**CONTINUATION IN THIS PROGRAM IS CONTINGENT UPON VERIFICATION OF ALL ADMISSION CRITERIA.**
## I. FOUNDATIONS: (10 hours)

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<th>Semester Planned</th>
<th>Semester Completed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ECI 570 Core Introductory Seminar (1 hour)</td>
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<td>EDF 500 Cultural Foundations of Education (3 hours)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>EPS 605 Applied Educational Psychology (3 hours)</td>
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<td>BME 500 Foundations of Structured English Immersion (3 hours)</td>
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## II. CORE EDUCATION COURSES: (18 hours. A valid fingerprint clearance card must be on file to enroll in these courses)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ECI 571 Reading and Language Arts Methods (6 hours)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>ECI 572 Teaching Lab (concurrent with 571) (1 hour)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ECI 573 Elementary Mathematics Methods** (3 hours)</td>
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<td>ECI 574 Social Studies/Science Methods (4 hours)</td>
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<td>ECI 575 Curriculum &amp; Assessment in the Elementary Classroom (4 hours)</td>
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## III. EDUCATIONAL SPECIALTIES: (6 hours plus Educational Technology course)

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<th>Semester Planned</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ETC 545 Educational Technology Course * (3 hours)</td>
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<td>ESE 548 Survey of Special Education (3 hours)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>BME 631 Structured English Immersion &amp; Sheltered English Content (3 hours)</td>
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## IV. STUDENT TEACHING CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE: (12 hours)

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<th>Semester Planned</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ECI 576 Student Teaching/Internship (11 hours)</td>
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<td>ECI 577 Student Teaching Reflection Seminar (1 hour)</td>
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**TOTAL:** (49 hours)
Important Contact Information:

Graduate College:  http://home.nau.edu/gradcol/  928-523-4348  Building 11 (Ashurst)
Financial Aid:  http://www4.nau.edu/finaid/  928-523-4951  Building 1 (Gammage)
Residence Life:  http://www4.nau.edu/reslife/reslife/  928-523-3978
Fronske Health Center:  http://www4.nau.edu/fronske/
Scholarship Information:  http://www4.nau.edu/cee/scholarships/
Graduate Assistant Info:  http://home.nau.edu/gradcol/financialresources.asp