EDUCATION (ELEMENTARY)

Education Department

Faculty
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Statement of philosophy
The philosophical foundation of teacher education at Central College is the liberal arts tradition. Central College Teacher Preparation Candidates exhibit knowledge, skills, and dispositions that are aligned with national and state teaching standards and are grounded in our program’s focus on developmental, authentic learning experiences. Through the completion of coursework and embedded field/clinical experiences, our graduates are prepared to exhibit the following skills and dispositions of effective teachers:

- Plan instruction by using knowledge of the content, cross disciplinary skills, individual learner differences, the community, and best practice to meet rigorous learning goals
- Use differentiated strategies and connect concepts to encourage learners to develop deep understanding of the content
- Utilize strategies, resources and technology to enhance critical/creative thinking and problem solving
- Apply classroom management and motivational strategies to create positive, productive learning environments
- Make instructional decisions based on multiple methods of assessment
- Collaborate in a professional, self-directed, and committed learner
- Reflect and facilitate student learning
- Advocate for students

The achievement of these program standards is based on a commitment to the personal and professional fulfillment of each student. Students receive individualized attention through advising, instruction and supervision of clinical/field experiences. Field experiences are extensive and developmentally appropriate. Continuous contact with teachers and students in clinical settings enables prospective teachers to successfully transfer educational theory into effective practice. Programs at Central College combine the best of traditional educational practice with the latest in innovative contemporary theory.

Education students may be eligible to enroll in the Central Teacher Academy (CTA), which is a three-year program that pairs a teacher education candidate with a K-12 mentor teacher. Students in CTA complete additional clinical/field experiences and professional development sessions. All education students are encouraged to consider the numerous off-campus internship opportunities available at urban and overseas sites.

Program approval
The Central College teacher education program is approved by the Iowa Department of Education and the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Students successfully completing one of the prescribed programs may be considered candidates for an Iowa Teaching License that is endorsed according to the type of program completed.

The credentials of Central College are respected outside Iowa, but students desiring to teach in any other state should be acquainted with the professional requirements of the state in question as early as possible in their college career. Any student who is seeking Iowa licensure with the intent of also meeting the licensure requirements of another state should consult with the Department of Education in that state.

Admission and retention requirements
Application for the teacher education program is expected after completing EDUC 110, 135, and 181. Candidates are continually evaluated throughout the program to ensure appropriate progression on departmental standards and are formally reviewed by the full department at the point of admission to the teacher education program, at individual conferences at the end of each block, prior to student teaching, and before application for licensure.

Admission and retention in the teacher education program includes the following criteria:

1. Achievement of the designated score on standardized basic skills tests for admission and licensure (Scores of 235 each of C-BASE tests of Reading/Literacy, Writing, and Math)
2. Maintenance of a cumulative grade point average of 2.7;
3. Attainment of a minimum grade of “C” in all courses with the EDUC prefix;
4. Achievement of major program grade point average requirements or proficiencies (based on content area);
5. Successful completion of field experience assignments;
6. Successful completion of Departmental Benchmark assignments;
7. Demonstration of Central College Teacher Candidate Dispositions;
8. Demonstration of expertise in content and effective oral and written communication;
9. Recommendation of the major department.
Study abroad opportunities
The education department encourages students to consider the advantages of study abroad. Specific internships and programs of study in teacher education are available at most overseas sites.

Major Communication Skills
The communication skills expectations addressing reading, writing and speaking for Central College are found in the Student Learning Outcomes for the education department. These communication goals are accompanied by measurable competencies that more clearly delineate specific expectations.

The initial evaluation of communication skills takes place in EDUC 110 during a student’s first or second year. Writing skills are evaluated through writing assignments that are assessed for content, style and mechanics. Writing assignments include term papers, journals, position papers, and research papers. Reading skills are assessed for literal, inferential and evaluative comprehension of a variety of education materials. Speaking and listening skills are evaluated in assignments that involve small group discussion, leading large groups, teaching classes, oral presentations and debates.

Communication skills assessment is a continuous process throughout a student’s career. All departmental courses required of elementary education majors involve evaluation of class assignments in each skill area, often addressing one or more of the department’s competencies.

Final assessment of communication competency is normally made during the student teaching semester when students have established that they are able to communicate effectively in the elementary school classroom and complete written and oral projects for the Senior Seminar (EDUC 485). As a culminating experience, students must present their program portfolio to faculty members and peers.

Students who are deficient in any of the skills areas are required to remediate the deficiencies through the Tutoring & Writing Center or in consultation with a member of the department faculty.

Endorsements and special programs for Iowa licensure

Elementary education
The endorsement for teaching kindergarten through grade six may be granted to those who have:
1. A bachelor’s degree with a major in elementary education (see below)
2. Support courses from various departments meet licensure requirements (see below)
3. An additional licensure endorsement program (see list below)
4. Successful completion of the state-approved content and pedagogy exams
5. Demonstration of competence in the Central College standards and dispositions and received approval of the education department for licensure.

Elementary Education Major Requirements (48 credits)
Note: Students seeking teacher licensure must, in addition to these major requirements, complete all Teacher Licensure Requirements, listed following these major requirements.

1. Complete all of the following:
   EDUC 110 Foundations of Education (3)
   EDUC 135 Children with Exceptionalities (3)
   EDUC 181 Developmental Psychology (3)
   EDUC 215 Human Relations (3)
   EDUC 237 Teaching Language Arts and Reading (3)
   EDUC 239 Psychology in Elementary Education (3)
   EDUC 333 Science and Technology Curriculum and Methods (3)
   EDUC 334 Social Studies Curriculum and Methods (3)
   EDUC 352 Teaching of Reading (3)
   EDUC 354 Teaching of Mathematics (3)
   EDUC 374 Behavior and Classroom Management-Elementary (3)
   EDUC 453 Advanced Integration of Technology in Education – Elementary (1)
   EDUC 485 Senior Seminar in Elementary Education (2)

2. Complete one of the following two options:
   EDUC 460 Elementary Student Teaching (12)
   OR
   Complete both of the following:
   EDUC 462 Elementary Student Teaching (6)
   EDUC 468 K-6 Mild and Moderate Disabilities Student Teaching (6)
Teacher licensure requirements
(in addition to 47-48 credits education major requirements)

1. Complete all elementary education major requirements (47-48 credits -- see above) with a “C” or better in each course

2. Complete the following:
   - EDUC 210 Methods of Teaching Physical Education, Visual Arts, and Performing Arts in the Elementary Classroom (3)
   - ENGL 208 Literature for Children (3)
   - GEOG 210 Human Geography (3)
   - HIST 130 United States to 1877 (3)
   - Or HIST 131 United States since 1877 (3)
   - Or HIST 132 Issues in American History (3)
   - MATH 115 Mathematical Concepts I (3) and MATH 116 Mathematical Concepts II (3)
   - Or MATH 131 Calculus I (4) and either MATH 115 Mathematical Concepts I (3) or MATH 116 Mathematical Concepts II (3)
   - Or MATH 132 Calculus II (4) and either MATH 115 Mathematical Concepts I (3) or MATH 116 Mathematical Concepts II (3)
   - NASC 110 Concepts in Natural Science with Lab (4)
   - One additional science course of student’s choosing

3. Complete a 24 credit teacher licensure endorsement program in one of the following areas (please see the education department program guides for specific courses in each endorsement program):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Art</th>
<th>Music</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English/language arts</td>
<td>K-12 Physical education/health</td>
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<tr>
<td>English as a second language</td>
<td>Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>Basic Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>Social science/social studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Spanish</td>
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<td>Middle school</td>
<td>Special education-Strategist</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Speech communication/theatre</td>
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Art, music and physical education
K-8 and 5-12 endorsement programs are available in art and music. Students may fulfill requirements for programs at both levels and be qualified to teach kindergarten through grade twelve. Consult with the education department regarding specific requirements in each area. However, K-12 certification requires full certification at either the elementary or secondary level.

ESL-English as a Second Language or ELL-English Language Learners
A K-12 endorsement is available in English as a second language. This program is available to students who complete the elementary education major or the secondary education endorsement program with a major in another area. Consult with the education department for specific requirements.

Instructional Strategist I
This endorsement makes students eligible to teach students with mild or moderate disabilities in a variety of educational settings. This endorsement is available to students who complete either the elementary or secondary licensure program.

Middle school
This program provides a 5-8 endorsement that makes the student eligible to teach English/language arts, mathematics, natural science, or social studies at the middle school level. This endorsement is available to students who complete either the elementary or secondary licensure programs.