



**WATSON SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**  
**UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA WILMINGTON**

**MASTER OF EDUCATION IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION**

The M.Ed. in Elementary Education addresses the North Carolina Masters/Advanced Competencies which include standards in Instructional Expertise, Knowledge of Learners, Research Expertise, Connecting Subject Matter and Learners, and Professional Development and Leadership. The graduate program incorporates the conceptual framework which is common to all teacher education programs at UNCW: The Watson School of Education develops highly competent professionals to serve in educational leadership roles.

**Program Objectives**

Upon completion of the graduate Elementary Education program, the student should be able to:

1. Develop disciplinary and pedagogical knowledge relevant to elementary school curricula.
2. Adapt instruction to the developmental and learning needs of individuals, including exceptional children and children from non-mainstream cultural backgrounds.
3. Establish a classroom climate conducive to learning that is based on contemporary research findings.
4. Choose objectives consistent with state and local curriculum guidelines, the learning needs of students, and guidelines established by learned societies.
5. Provide effective objective-based instruction for a variety of types of learning in all of the subject areas of the elementary school curriculum.
6. Employ appropriate evaluation procedures and use evaluative information as a basis for revising and generating plans.
7. Synthesize the diversity of information and resources available in order to provide a developmentally-appropriate learning environment for K-6 students.
8. Establish a pattern of reflective learning and inquiry leading towards confidence, professionalism, and effectiveness in the role of teacher.

### **Important Information**

- A. The M.Ed. in Elementary Education requires that students have North Carolina “A” level licensure in early childhood (K-4), intermediate education (4-6), or elementary education (K-6) prior to admission. Upon completion of the program, students are recommended for “M” level licensure in Elementary Education. Licensure applications for increase to “M” level should be completed at the conclusion of the final semester of coursework.
- B. Additional Praxis Specialty Area tests are not required for this program.
- C. Students earning the M.Ed. in Elementary Education must complete a culminating product in the required course, EDN 593: Contemporary Perspectives in Education. This product, a result of research that examines both sides of a controversial issue in education, will be presented in both oral and written forms. The oral presentation is attended by faculty and graduate students, and the written product is evaluated by the student’s comprehensive examination committee.
- D. Students completing the M.Ed. provide evidence that they have synthesized the learning from their graduate courses during a final comprehensive examination. This written examination is taken when the final courses for the program are completed or in progress.
- E. Students must meet with their advisors during the fall and spring semesters to plan program coursework and to receive registration information. Prerequisites and corequisites for courses are listed in the *UNCW Graduate Catalogue*.
- F. Selected courses require additional field experiences as indicated on the *Program of Study*.
- G. During the fall and spring semesters, graduate courses are offered in the late afternoon and evening time periods. During the summer, graduate courses may be offered during Summer Session I or II, but typically are offered during Summer II.
- H. Individuals may take up to 10 semester hours as non-degree students provided they meet the admissions requirements. These hours may be applied toward the degree upon acceptance as a degree-seeking student. A maximum of six semester hours of graduate credit may be transferred from another accredited institution in partial fulfillment of the total hours required for the master’s degree.
- I. A graduate student has five calendar years to complete his or her degree program. The five-year period begins with the student’s first term of work after formal admission to a degree-granting program. Work completed as a non-degree student does not initiate the five-year period for completing a degree program. Students must be enrolled in the term in which they complete their graduate work or are scheduled to receive their degree.
- J. Comprehensive examinations must be scheduled when final courses are in progress or after courses are completed. The deadline for apply for fall comprehensive examinations is May 15<sup>th</sup>, and the deadline for applying for spring comprehensive examinations is December 15<sup>th</sup>. Applications are available in EB 308 or on the website: <http://www.uncw.edu/ed/advising/>
- K. Applications for graduation are available online at [www.uncw.edu/grad](http://www.uncw.edu/grad) Applications for graduation in summer or fall are due April 15<sup>th</sup>. Applications for spring graduation are due November 15<sup>th</sup>.
- L. Graduate assistantships are available in the Watson School of Education. The positions provide employment for 20 hours per week working as research assistants with faculty members or as assistants in the Ed Lab, Technology Lab, or Curriculum Materials Center. For additional information, contact the Graduate Coordinator (Associate Dean for Academic Programs) in the Watson School of Education at (910) 962-4142.
- M. Students who have earned National Board status may request a waiver of three hours of elective credit by providing appropriate documentation (i.e., copy of NBPTS score report or ACE transcript) to the WSE Graduate Coordinator.

The University of North Carolina at Wilmington is committed to and will provide equality of educational and employment opportunity for all persons regardless of race, sex, age, color, gender, national origin, ethnicity, creed, religion, disability, sexual orientation, political affiliation, marital status, veteran status or relationship to other university constituents – except where sex, age, or ability represent bona fide educational or occupational qualifications or where marital status is a statutorily established eligibility criterion for state-funded employee benefit programs.

**Watson School of Education**  
**University of North Carolina Wilmington**

**MASTER OF EDUCATION IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION**

The program leading to the Master of Education degree (M.Ed.) in elementary education provides advanced professional training for individuals holding, or qualified to hold, North Carolina Class "A" teacher licensure in early childhood education (K-4), intermediate education (4-6), or elementary education (K-6). The 39-semester hour program is comprised of 18 semester hours of conceptual and technical studies, 12 semester hours in the area of specialization, a three-semester hour practicum, and 6 semester hours of electives.

Based upon the view of the professional as a decision-maker, the program addresses the needs for conceptual and procedural bases for decision-making and specific alternatives within the student's anticipated area of professional practice. Accordingly, the program is comprised of a "professional core" of conceptual foundations, elementary specialty courses, and a practicum.

**Program of Study**

**I. Elementary Core (18 Hours)**

Choose one course from each area.

- |    |  |               |
|----|--|---------------|
| 1. | EDN 500 Human Development and Learning                     | (3)           |
| 2. | EDN 523 Research in Education                              | (3)           |
| 3. | EDN 509 Education in a Multicultural Context               | (3) <i>or</i> |
|    | EDN 545 Black Literature and Resources for Teachers        | (3) <i>or</i> |
|    | EDN 563 Educational Environments                           | (3)           |
| 4. | EDN 520 Instructional Development                          | (3) <i>or</i> |
|    | EDN 530 Curriculum   | (3)           |
| 5. | EDN 550 Nature and Needs of Exceptional Children           | (3)           |
| 6. | SED 556* Seminar on Families, Diversity, and Collaboration | (3) <i>or</i> |
|    | EDN 567 Learning-Centered Supervision                      | (3)           |
| 7. | EDN 593 Contemporary Issues in Education                   | (1)           |

## II. Elementary Specialty Courses (12 Hours)

Choose one course from each of the following groups:

1. Mathematics:
  - EDN 542 The Teaching of Mathematics (3)
  - EDN 546\* Assessment in School Mathematics (3)
  
2. Language Arts:
  - EDN 541 Role of Literature in Learning and the Curriculum (3)
  - EDN 551 Exploring Your Own Literacy and Literacy Education (3)
  - EDN 558\*\*Foundations of Language and Literacy (3)
  - EDN 584\*\*Development of Language and Literacy (3)
  - EDN 586\*\*Programs, Practices and Procedures in Language and Literacy (3)
  - EDN 588 Assessment in Language and Literacy (3)
  
3. Social Studies:
  - EDN 543\* The Teaching of Social Studies (3)
  
4. Science:
  - EDN 544\*The Teaching of Science (3)
  - EDN 548\*Inquiry - The Method of Science (3)

\*Field-based activities are required in these courses. The activities will be cooperatively designed, and will be supervised by university and field-based personnel.

\*\*Although the one semester hour co-requisite seminars (EDN 569, 585, 587) for these courses are not required for Elementary Education majors, they will enrich the learning experience for students electing to take them.

## III. Practicum (3 Hours)

EDN 590 Practicum in Elementary Education (3)

## IV. Electives (6 Hours)

Six (6) semester hours of graduate courses appropriate to elementary education as approved by the advisor.

EDN 599: Thesis may be selected (1-6 hours).

Note: A written comprehensive examination also is required.