

# Elementary Education

MAJOR



## Program Highlights

- Students will be part of a **cohort model** engaging in meaningful discussions, hands-on learning, and personal relationships with peers and professors.
- Developing teachers will reflect critically on the ways we embody and enact a **sustainable sense of self**.
- Candidates will engage with people whose social contexts are unlike their own, broadening and deepening **respect for** and sensitivity to **various cultures and social contexts**.
- Classrooms will prioritize valuing the literacies and literate backgrounds of all learners and develop **equitable, inclusive** instruction that honors **diverse** learners at all developmental phases.
- Students will study and appreciate the process of **human development** during the cycles of life from conception onward, especially throughout childhood.
- Program participants will build on **interdisciplinary connections** among content areas to create inclusive, responsive, and effective instruction for all learners.



"Your professors will challenge you, and you will grow so much because of this. All of your assignments will be meaningful and will actually prepare you to be a teacher. Also, with the cohort model, expect to become very close with your classmates. They will become like family to you."

- Lindsey, Elementary Education

## Field Experience

All teacher candidates can expect rich experiences in diverse settings to support their success in working with all students. Candidates are placed in multiple classrooms and educational settings throughout their professional education program that reflect the demographics of our communities and beyond. All placements are designed based on characteristics that reflect diversity, including socio-economic status, rural/urban settings, and culturally and linguistically diverse schools. Every attempt is made to provide opportunities for each candidate to experience a broad spectrum of experiences.

Practicum experiences take place with our local school partners:

- Augusta County Public Schools
- Harrisonburg City Public Schools
- Page County Public Schools
- Rockingham County Public Schools
- Shenandoah County Public Schools
- Staunton City Public Schools
- Waynesboro City Public Schools

Student teaching placements may be available with school partners across Virginia, including Northern Virginia, Richmond, and Tidewater regions.



## Study Abroad Opportunities

Increase your self-confidence and discover yourself in a whole new way while gaining meaningful insights and valuable perspectives. You will build new friendships and increase your ability to interact effectively with people of other nationalities. The benefits of study abroad programs are as endless as the opportunities James Madison University offers.

Students can travel abroad for semester-long programs, short-term study away experiences, and practicum and student teaching opportunities. Some of the locations our students regularly travel to include:

### ■ Costa Rica

Join us for an unforgettable experience in Costa Rica where you will immerse yourself in a beautiful foreign country in order to practice applying knowledge and skills of teaching English as a foreign language to Spanish-speaking students in a bilingual English-Spanish school.

### ■ Ireland and Northern Ireland

Each student will be placed in a public school and will collaborate with host classroom teachers and students within one-on-one, small group, and/or large group settings.

### ■ Kenya

The immersive experiences will be focused on educational justice through girls' education at Nasaruni Schools—primary and secondary, a campus of about 150 Maasai girls who overcome barriers to their education.

## Major Overview

The Elementary Education Program prepares candidates to teach students in grades PreK-6. Drawn from research and theories in child development, teaching and learning, the course work and field experiences prepare teacher candidates to employ a cross disciplinary approach to instruction that reflects an understanding of the diverse nature of learners and their families.

The JMU Elementary Education Program seeks to foster: an empathic understanding of the ways that children are affected by social contexts and by the children's own strengths and needs; knowledge and pedagogical skills to support each child's right to success; and, belief in the value of each child.



■ **JMU Programs are Accredited** by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). JMU has been awarded the Frank Murray Leadership Recognition for Continuous Improvement by CAEP.

■ Upon completing the education program, **candidates are eligible for licensure**, and the Education Support Center will help guide students through the application process.

■ **Multiple graduate programs** are available for students seeking an advanced degree to expand their knowledge and skills in the classroom, school, community, and beyond.

■ **NASDTEC Interstate Agreement** allows JMU students to obtain licensure in almost all of the U.S. states and territories.

For a recommended schedule go to: [http://www.jmu.edu/coe/eere/\\_files/eled-major-sequence](http://www.jmu.edu/coe/eere/_files/eled-major-sequence)

For details visit [jmu.edu/coe](http://jmu.edu/coe)