
The College of Education has received much recognition and several national awards for its innovative teacher-preparation programs. In addition, when compared with other institutions which offer teacher certification programs, the College of Education offers students *many* program options for completing their education courses. Why? We understand that students have unique needs and have different objectives for entering the Teacher Education Program. By offering a variety of program options, the College of Education hopes to meet the needs of their diverse student population. A brief explanation of the program options is given below.

School-Based Partnership Programs

Elementary education students may choose to participate in a two-semester school-based program which allows them to take elementary education courses that provide the foundation for the practical experience they obtain every day in the classroom. Elementary & Special Education dual majors may choose to participate in a three-semester school-based program that allows them to spend an increasing number of hours working with children with and without disabilities. In both school-based programs, students are assigned to several different classrooms throughout the course of the program, to experience different grade levels and teaching styles. University faculty work closely with the classroom/mentor teachers to develop a comprehensive, cohesive program for the NAU students. Students are given responsibility in areas involving lesson planning, teaching, grading, participating in parent conferences, etc.

Campus-Based Cohort Program

Students in this program option complete education courses at the NAU campus during a three-semester sequence. By definition a cohort is a band or group of students taking education course work together. Each semester, cohort students enroll in a block of education courses that are grouped together in a thematic fashion. Students visit a public school classroom several times each semester as part of the practicum component of the program. NAU faculty guide them through the experience, allowing students to take on more classroom responsibilities as the program progresses.

Campus-Based Traditional Program

Students may take one or more education courses each semester in conjunction with their other bachelor degree requirements. The program is very flexible, allowing students to pick and choose the sequencing of their education courses from two recommended groupings. Education courses are offered year-round, allowing students to accelerate their program by taking education courses during the summer. Students receive a practicum experience during the semester they take their reading methods and curriculum courses to provide exposure to the classroom prior to their student teaching semester.