

# ELEMENTARY EDUCATION, B.EL.ED.

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**Begin Campus:** Any Penn State Campus

**End Campus:** Harrisburg

## Program Description

The Elementary Education program at Penn State Harrisburg embodies the four tenets of our conceptual framework: constructivism, authenticity, reflectivity, and standards-based curriculum. Constructivism entails a student-centered approach in which teachers help learners build their own understandings. Authenticity refers to developing professional and pedagogical skills in authentic classroom settings; for example, in the junior and senior years prior to student teaching, the program offers extensive field experiences in a variety of settings enrolling students with diverse backgrounds and needs. Reflectivity relates to consciously analyzing course content and one's own learning for the purpose of deeper understanding and self-improvement. Standards-based curriculum means that our candidates are steeped in Pennsylvania Academic Standards as well as the standards of relevant professional organizations. Taken together, these tenets enable our candidates to become *lifelong reflective professionals committed to the learning of all students*.

Students will choose one of four options for the degree:

1. PK-4 Early Childhood Education,
2. Grades 4-8 English/Language Arts and Reading,
3. Grades 4-8 Mathematics, and
4. Grades 4-8 Social Studies.

Upon successful completion of this major, students will have met all of the requirements for either the Grades PK-4, Grades 4-8 English/Language Arts and Reading, Grades 4-8 Mathematics, or Grades 4-8 Social Studies Instructional I certification issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Students must apply for admission to the major.

Prior to the full-time student teaching experience in the senior year, candidates are expected to complete all other courses required for certification, including two field placements. On-campus courses are scheduled three or four days a week, while field experiences in nearby schools are scheduled part-time, two to three days per week.

## What is Elementary Education?

Elementary Education prepares bright, creative and passionate individuals to teach students in the primary and middle-level grades, which includes pre-kindergarten through grade four or grades four through grade eight. This major includes preparation to teach all elementary subjects, as well as classroom management, working with families and evidence-based best practices of teaching and learning. Individuals in the major spend time in primary or middle school classrooms observing, leading activities, teaching lessons, and being mentored by an experienced teacher.

## You Might Like This Program If...

- You enjoy working with children.
- You like critical, creative, and reflective thinking.

- You want to have an important and direct impact on the lives of others.
- You want a career in teaching or school administration.