

Goals and Objectives for Students Preparing to Teach Elementary Education

Based upon the broad academic foundation provided by the general studies requirements of the college and intensive study in the area of licensure, the overall **goal** of elementary education is to provide developmentally appropriate learning experiences to meet the needs, capabilities, and interests of children in kindergarten through grade six. These experiences should insure the acquisition by our preservice teachers of the attitudes, knowledge, skills, and competencies required to perform effectively in the public schools. Through fulfillment of the following **objectives**, prospective elementary teachers should be prepared to:

1. Demonstrate a sense of professional commitment to teaching and of the importance and challenge of the profession.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the physical, cognitive, social and emotional developmental characteristics of children grades K-6.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the dynamics of human interaction as related to teacher-teacher, teacher-parent, teacher-student and teacher-community relationships.
4. Develop a realistic philosophy of education, an understanding of the role of the school in contemporary society, and an understanding of the evolution of education in this country.
5. Demonstrate an awareness of and sensitivity to children from diverse backgrounds (race, gender, socio-economic status, cultural heritage, handicapping conditions, special needs).
6. Demonstrate the ability to use current research and theories in the planning, selecting, sequencing and evaluating developmentally appropriate content materials within the elementary curriculum (communications, mathematics, social studies, the arts, healthful living).
7. Demonstrate an understanding of the need to organize and manage a classroom learning environment that is risk free, discovery centered and facilitated by the teacher.
8. Demonstrate both an understanding of the inter-relatedness of all discipline areas and the ability to prepare integrated lesson plans, units and activities appropriate for each curricular area.
9. Select, design and utilize media (including computers) as an integral part of instruction.