

## Career Guide:

# ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Elementary school teachers educate children in kindergarten to sixth grade in basic academics, including math, science and reading, and social development. They foster an engaging environment that nurtures curiosity and encourages self-confidence. Teachers must be patient, creative and energetic to captivate diverse students.

### INDUSTRY GROWTH IS TIED TO:

- Increasing enrollment in a number of states.
- Baby Boom teachers reaching retirement age.
- Greater demand for preschool programs.



**6%**

**JOB GROWTH  
THROUGH 2024**



**2016 MEDIAN SALARY: \$55,490**



**DEMAND IS HIGHEST FOR TEACHERS**

WITH EXPERTISE IN MATH, SCIENCE, AND  
BILINGUAL EDUCATION

### REWARDS OF TEACHING

- Seeing results in action as students progress
- Personal relationships with students and parents
- Respect and admiration
- Dynamic work environment
- Lifelong impact on students
- New learning opportunities
- Autonomy in your classroom
- Job stability

### JOB TASKS AND DUTIES

- Motivate and encourage students.
- Create lesson plans.
- Work with students to help them overcome learning challenges.
- Prepare students for standardized tests.
- Develop and enforce classroom rules.
- Evaluate students and grade assignments to monitor progress.
- Communicate with parents.

### CHARACTERISTICS OF GREAT TEACHERS

- Good organization and communication skills
- Creativity
- Patience
- Stamina
- Resourcefulness
- Passionate
- Flexible
- Fun-loving and a sense of humor



## WHAT TO EXPECT IN AN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAM

Students pursuing a degree in elementary education are prepared to teach children from kindergarten to sixth grade. They take classes in teaching methods, educational theories and child psychology and learn to engage students in a variety of subjects, including English, math, science, social studies, art and physical education. Some elementary education students also take courses in bilingual and special education.

### ELEMENTARY EDUCATION MAY BE A GOOD FIT IF YOU...

- Have a love of learning new things.
- Enjoy working with children.
- Receive great satisfaction from helping others learn.
- Have excellent oral and written communication skills.
- Know how to work collaboratively for the good of all children.
- Enjoy the challenges of a dynamic workplace.
- Want to shape future generations.
- Are an innovative and creative problem solver.

### CLASSES MAY INCLUDE:

- Mathematics
- Language arts
- History and social sciences
- Science
- Fine arts and music
- Educational foundations
- Psychology
- Tutoring
- Technology
- Teaching methods
- English as a Second Language
- Student teaching

### LOOK FOR A PROGRAM THAT OFFERS:

- Supportive faculty who are experienced professionals and share your passion for educating children.
- Connections with a number of school districts for job shadowing, student teaching and mentoring.
- Cutting-edge research on how to improve education.
- Graduates successfully passing state certification exams on their first try.

To learn about the Elementary Education program at the University of Northern Colorado, visit us at [UNCO.EDU/PROGRAMS/ELEMENTARY-EDUCATION/ELEMENTARY-EDUCATION-BA](https://unco.edu/programs/elementary-education/elementary-education-ba)

### Before you declare your major in Elementary Education:

- Volunteer at a local school or children's hospital or start babysitting to gain experience working with children.
- Tutor students struggling with schoolwork.

*"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."*

—Nelson Mandela



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