

College *of Education*



EDUCATION PROGRAMS

FIND YOUR PURPOSE

GRAND CANYON
UNIVERSITY®

PRIVATE. CHRISTIAN. AFFORDABLE.

BRING LOPES to Life

Download the GCU Virtual Tour application on your smartphone by either searching your phone's app store or scanning the QR code below:



While the application is running, point your phone at designated GCU virtual triggers.



Try it out!
Scan the trigger icon below and throughout the brochure to watch Lopes leap off the page!



AUGMENTED REALITY

This brochure contains augmented reality, an interactive experience in which real-world objects are enhanced by technology. Look for the trigger symbol on the images, as this symbol identifies where augmented reality is used. Follow the instructions and prepare to be amazed as these sections come to life on your phone!



ABOUT Grand Canyon University

Grand Canyon University is Arizona's premier, private Christian university. We help students find their purpose by offering next-generation education with over 270 academic programs, including over 200+ online programs,* across nine distinct colleges. Approximately 20,500 ground students** learn on our vibrant campus in the heart of Phoenix and over 81,000 online students† join our innovative and collaborative virtual learning community.

Spanning 275 acres, GCU's campus continues to grow with new residence halls, academic buildings, popular eateries, student support resources and amenities, as well as state-of-the-art athletic facilities like GCU Stadium, the Canyon Activity Complex and more. GCU offers generous scholarship opportunities to make a private education affordable and invests in revitalizing the community with a commitment to making a difference.

*Sept. 2020
**Fall 2019
†Q4 2019

Christian Worldview

Built upon a biblically rooted mission, GCU believes quality education and faith can coexist in the 21st century. We integrate aspects of our distinctive Christian worldview into everything we do, and we incorporate Christian principles in the classroom to encourage students to shape their own perspectives. A values-based curriculum further helps students cultivate morality, ethics and compassion within their careers and lives.

GCU students are not required to be Christians. Our approach is missional in nature, characterized by a welcoming spirit and loving service to all from different walks of life. Our students experience the Christian faith, the mission of God and the idea of living for the good of others in a safe and supportive space. We encourage everyone to grow spiritually and live with intention while responding to their call to purpose.

GCU'S SIX COMMITMENTS FOR REWARDING EXPERIENCES

1. START STRONG, FINISH STRONG:

GCU begins preparing students for their careers and futures right at the beginning of their first year. Students have access to opportunities and complimentary resources that support their college experience, academics, real-world learning, wellness and personal growth all the way through graduation and beyond.

2. EARLY GRADUATION:

Committed to affordability, GCU offers fast-track options for students to accelerate their college journey. Students who graduate in less than four years can pay less in tuition and college expenses, as well as enter their graduate program or career sooner.

3. LOW STUDENT DEBT:

GCU helps make a private college education affordable and accessible by offering generous institutional scholarships. On average, a student pays approximately \$8,600* after GCU-funded scholarships for the academic year, which reduces tuition by about half.

4. HOME AWAY FROM HOME:

Students become a part of a supportive, diverse and safe community. Opportunities to get involved in campus life, Academic and Career Excellence (ACE) Centers, Chapel and Life Groups, Public Safety and many other services help turn campus into a second home for Lopes.

5. REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE:

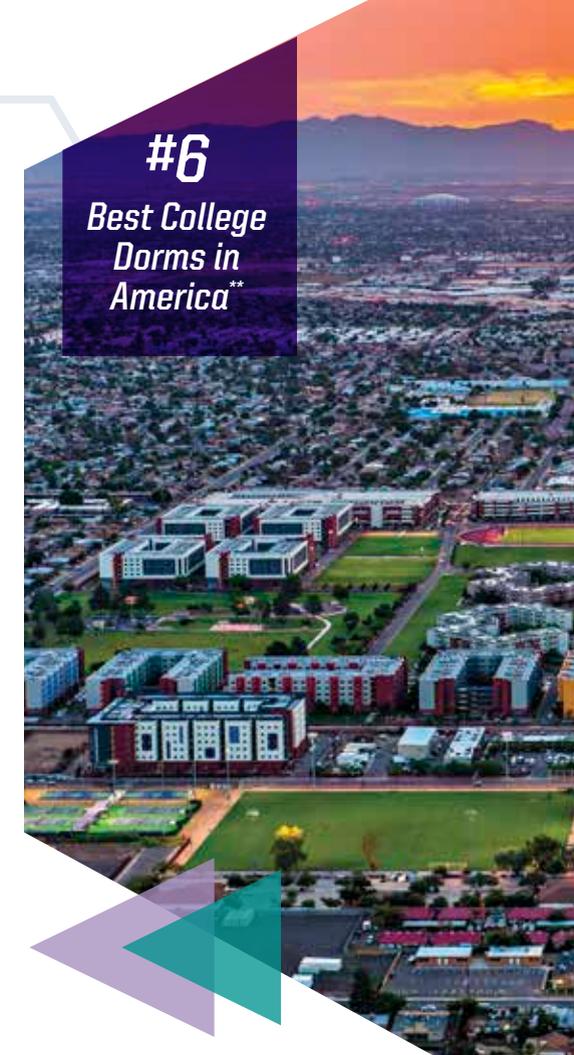
Students have unique opportunities to get involved in GCU enterprises, which provide students with hands-on learning environments where they can gain real workplace experiences and skills. Students also become a part of the transformative impact that these businesses have on the local community.

6. ONE APPLICATION:

Many colleges and universities have implemented additional measures of evaluation before permitting upperclassmen to complete their major course of study. Secondary acceptance requires an additional application, a second review of previously submitted materials and/or a minimum GPA requirement. These secondary measures can potentially delay graduation and incur greater expense. At GCU, most incoming students are accepted into their program of study without a secondary review, with the exception of our nursing and athletic training programs, which require secondary acceptance due to clinical restrictions.

#6

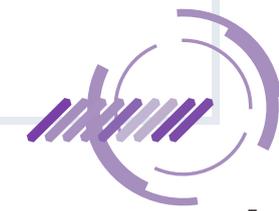
Best College Dorms in America**



10 GCU ENTERPRISES:

- Canyon 49 Grill
- Canyon Pizza Co.
- Canyon Promotions
- GCU Ad Agency
- The GCU Golf Course
- GCU Hotel
- Grand Canyon Beverage Co. (GCBC)
- The Lope House Restaurant
- Lope Shops
- Pro Shop

*Average tuition after scholarships is approximately \$8,600. Scholarships may be awarded based on 6th semester transcripts. At the time in which final, official transcripts are received, GCU reserves the right to rescind or modify the scholarship if it is determined that eligibility was not achieved. GCU reserves the right to decline scholarship awards for any reason. If a student does not meet the minimum renewal criteria, their scholarship will be forfeited. GCU reserves the right to change scholarship awards at any time without notice. If a student does not meet the minimum renewal criteria, their scholarship will be forfeited. Prices based on 2019-20 rate and are subject to change.
**Niche.com 2021 college rankings.



#19 Best College Campus in America**



College of Education

The College of Education inspires excellence in pedagogy and scholarship, advances reflective, innovative and collaborative teaching practices to maximize student learning and achievement, promotes servant leadership in educational communities and engages a diverse and global community of learners with purpose and passion.

Students carry out their passion to inspire minds and change lives across a variety of school and community settings. With a rich heritage as a prestigious teaching college established in 1949, we ensure our programs continue to meet the changing, diverse needs in education and provide opportunities that create meaningful learning experiences.

Class sizes on GCU's traditional campus has an average of fewer than 27 students,* so our instructors are able to engage students on a personal level and develop connections that can foster learning. GCU's commitment to student success extends beyond graduation as we continue to offer support and services during a graduate's first year as a new teacher or administrator.

For more information, visit gcu.edu/coe

“Going to GCU was one of the best decisions I could have made. It has the big school spirit culture I was looking for—without having the big school classroom sizes... My professors knew me and cared for me. My classmates encouraged and challenged me because I can get to know each and every one. The College of Education not only ensures your success academically but pushes you to be a standout employee. In the beautiful state of Arizona, education is struggling, and we have the opportunity to truly make a difference. In America, education is struggling, and the college provides you with the tools needed to thrive in any educational setting.”

– Allie Biedermann, Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with an Emphasis in English as a Second Language (ESL)

“Teach because it is one of the few professions where you can be 100% sure you will change someone’s life for the better. Teach because we are called to serve and love, and this profession is designed exactly for those two things.”

Meredith Critchfield, PhD
Professor and Faculty Chair





Pledge of Learning, Leading, Serving

The College of Education follows the Christian heritage of GCU by finding our purpose and calling in teaching. We seek to lead others to reach their God-given potential by integrating faith into our work.

We believe all students can learn and deserve highly effective, innovative, skilled, committed and compassionate educators who ensure that all of their students learn to the best of their abilities.

We believe education is a powerful tool to purposefully engage a multicultural, global community to make a difference in a changing world.

We believe in the spirit of servant leadership and are committed to serving all students within our local and broader educational communities. In our profession, we lead with creativity, innovation and a commitment to personal integrity, professional ethics, collaboration and excellence for all.

Our College of Education teacher candidates, teachers and educators pledge to:

- Enter the class as a professional educator, fully prepared every day
- Maximize learning for all students and inspire students to achieve at their highest potential
- Approach teaching and learning for all students with the heart of a servant leader
- Be a culturally responsive educator who engages with and advocates for social justice and supports each student and their unique learning needs
- Model personal integrity, professional ethics, collaboration and excellence for all
- Be a lifelong learner to advance their commitment as a professional educator

This pledge affirms their commitment and devotion to learning, leading and serving.





College of Education Promise

The College of Education firmly believes in the excellence of our administration and teaching degree programs. Nonetheless, we understand the challenges a new career in education may present. Since 1984, we have delivered on our promise to assist graduates of our educator- and administrator-preparation programs during their first year of teaching or leading in schools at no expense. We continue to honor this pledge and aim to support our students as they develop into outstanding educators.

“Whether you choose to earn your degree on campus or online, your preparation will be in the hands of highly competent practitioner educators who incorporate instructional best-practices using technology and collaborative techniques.”

Dr. James W. Rice, Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, Alumni 1971,
Former Superintendent of Alhambra Elementary School District, Educator for over 45 years

Professional Learning Network (PLN)

Supporting the GCU conceptual framework of Learning, Leading and Serving, PLN is a virtual space that allows our extensive community of students, faculty, supervisors and alumni to learn, collaborate and connect to gain support in their clinical practice site. Teacher candidates, educational administration candidates and faculty supervisors come together in a supportive environment to work toward high-quality, successful clinical practice experiences.

Career Readiness for High-Demand Jobs

GCU is committed to addressing the national teacher shortage crisis. The College of Education is excited to prepare students for the field of education because students are led not only to a rewarding career, but to jobs that are in high demand. Our industry-driven curriculum and expert instruction responds to the great outlook on employment in education and retiring workforce, from teaching in the classroom to school administration and leadership. We ensure students have the many skills needed for the current job market.

Our college’s staff also seeks to assist new teachers with any questions or instructional needs during their first year of teaching. We would like our students to keep in mind that although becoming an educator is an opportunity to impact lives, it also comes with additional perks such as summer and holiday breaks. These serve as personal times to evaluate the current or previous year and adjust classroom strategies based on those evaluations for greater student outcomes.

Ways to Get Involved

EDUCATORS RISING OF GCU

Educators Rising of GCU strives to prepare the preservice teachers in becoming effective educators by providing professional development, service learning and leadership development opportunities. Pre-service teachers will learn more about education, participate in hands on leadership and prepare to become high-quality teachers. We host many fun activities throughout the year, so be sure to get involved!

Visit gcu.edu/EducatorsRising

LOPES FOR LITERACY

Literacy and the importance of reading can’t be stressed enough, especially to younger students. The GCU College of Education and K12 Educational Development promote the value of reading as an important skill necessary for success in school and in life. In conjunction with Thunder Vision, a campus visitation program for elementary students in the Phoenix metropolitan area, Lopes for Literacy encourages children to discover the joy of reading by rewarding their personal reading accomplishments. Students can volunteer to read in a class or take Lopes for Literacy to their local school.

Visit coe@gcu.edu

EXPLORE MORE

Explore More sessions are hosted throughout the semester by faculty to help students understand tough subject matter and tackle challenging courses among their peers. Our faculty provide focused sessions that prepare candidates to successfully take their NES certification exams.

GCU BEST BUDDIES

GCU Best Buddies is for those who have a heart for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). As part of a global volunteer movement, Best Buddies creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment and leadership development for people with IDD.

Follow us on Twitter [@GCUBuddies](https://twitter.com/GCUBuddies)

“Being the president of GCU’s Educators Rising has been such an amazing experience and opportunity. The club allows for aspiring educators to come together to share their ideas and experiences. It’s great for likeminded students to work on becoming the best teachers that we can be. Being the president of such a club is truly an honor as I not only get to share my passion for teaching, but I also get to witness the passion to teach from our club members as well.”

Josiah Buxton, Bachelor of Arts in English for Secondary Education



Ways to Get Involved

KAPPA DELTA PI

Alpha Epsilon Gamma, GCU's chapter of Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education, is the premier honor society for people who are preparing for, engaged in or retired from the teaching profession. To be eligible for membership in the society, undergraduate students must have completed 12 semester hours in their program of study with a minimum 3.0 GPA and graduate students must have a minimum 3.25 GPA.

To join, email gcukdp@gcu.edu

BIG LOPES - LIL' LOPES

Big Lopes - Lil' Lopes provides college students with opportunities to spend time together and grow academically, professionally and socially. The family-like atmosphere creates a safe space where students can ask for homework help, work through roommate conflicts, talk about personal struggles or share fun details about a great week. While they have a great time together, the main purpose is to build a community within education majors. There are many tasks that must be done to be successful as an education major and Big Lopes - Lil' Lopes is there to help everyone be successful and take away some stress.

To join, email GCUbiglopelillopes@gmail.com



Get involved!

GCU EDTECH CLUB

Looking to grow in the area of technology in the classroom? GCU EdTech is a club for current or former GCU students to explore educational technology tools, engage in discussions and share experiences surrounding implementation. This club is open to both online and ground students and is facilitated by College of Education faculty members Amanda Errington and Kim Werking.

Twitter [@edtechclub](https://twitter.com/edtechclub)

Flipgrid at flipgrid.com/edtechclub

Code to join from Flipgrid app:
edtechclub

Password: **GCUedtech**
(GCU must be in all caps)

Email: EdTechClub@gcu.edu

INTERESTED IN ENGAGING FURTHER WITH US?

Follow us on Twitter: [@GCU_COE](https://twitter.com/GCU_COE)

Instagram: [@GCU_COE](https://www.instagram.com/GCU_COE)

Teaching in Purple Blog

or Email us at coe@gcu.edu



Scan this QR code and **START READING TODAY!**

The College of Education Advantage: What Makes Us Different

ACCREDITATION

The College of Education is approved by the Arizona State Board of Education and the Arizona Department of Education to offer institutional recommendations (credentials) for the certification of early childhood, elementary, secondary and special education teachers and administrators. The college also aligns its curriculum and objectives with the standards set by the Higher Learning Commission.



Grand Canyon University is a member in good standing of the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation (AAQEP).

The following programs have been awarded full accreditation by AAQEP through June 30, 2026:

Initial Programs & Advanced Programs:
Reading and TESOL

LOPES FIRST

Students success is our success! Our faculty members focus on learning, leading and serving. They connect with students in class as well as during office hours, and they provide individualized mentoring and coaching to the students even after they graduate through the COE Promise.

CHRISTIAN VALUES AND ETHICS

We integrate our Christian worldview into academic settings to foster service, integrity and values-based teaching. Our integration of faith into curriculum and programs creates a learning environment that inspires students to pursue a calling to selflessly, compassionately and ethically serve classrooms for the greater good.

CURRICULUM

We deliver a rigorous, challenging curriculum designed to teach how to effectively respond to the demands of today's diverse schools. The curriculum emphasizes pedagogy excellence, scholarship and best practices. We strive to empower students with the confidence and skilled ability to impact classrooms.

INNOVATION IN THE CLASSROOM

Our faculty members maintain currency in educational technologies that prepare students for innovative classrooms. They utilize technologies that can allow for viewing of live classrooms, virtual tutoring as well as other relevant forms of technology that align to a student's programs of study.

GCU AND ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL (ACSI) PARTNERSHIP

GCU and ACSI come together with the shared mission to strengthen schools. ACSI is a community of Christian educators who have access to helpful resources, programs, experts, peers, special benefits and customizable services. GCU is currently pursuing ACSI certification for the Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with an Emphasis in Christian Education.

PRACTICUM AND FIELD EXPERIENCES

Practicum and field experiences give education majors the opportunity to observe a classroom and assist with tasks, assignments, lesson planning and more. GCU has counselors that help place students in a school. Often, practicum and field experiences are available freshman year, depending on the education major.

These experiences are embedded in each of the education courses early on to ensure classroom learning coexists with hands-on experiences to help students reach their fullest academic potential. Practicum and field experiences are excellent opportunities to engage with students and teachers in their classrooms (fingerprint clearance required).



The College of Education Advantage: What Makes Us Different



STUDENT TEACHING

Programs that lead to initial teacher licensure within the College of Education culminate with the teacher candidates completing the student teaching experience. GCU teacher candidates are provided with the opportunity to model the college's conceptual framework of learning, leading and serving by demonstrating their mastery of knowledge and skills in a brick and mortar classroom setting.

Taken at the conclusion of all coursework, student teaching requires 15–16 weeks (dependent on the teacher candidate's program of study). During this time, teacher candidates are mentored by an approved cooperating teacher and are expected to assume all teaching responsibilities, such as lesson planning, delivery of lessons, grading, etc., needed to teach students safely and effectively. Teacher candidates may choose to complete their student teaching requirement in their home state, allowing the flexibility and opportunity for teacher candidates to teach in their desired district/school site before and after graduation

ARIZONA STUDENT INTERN TEACHING CERTIFICATE (ASTIC)

ASTIC allows students to be compensated in the manner of a full-time employee even though they have not yet graduated, while most student teachers are typically unpaid and not contracted. This exciting and unique opportunity is made available to qualified teacher candidates. Our alumni attribute their success to the number of embedded practicum/field experiences that are in the rigorous and applicable programs of study. Some students may continue in the same district or school after the completion of their student teaching.

LOPES LEAP TO TEACH AND LEAD CAREER FAIR

Every semester, the College of Education hosts Lopes Leap to Teach and Lead, a career expo and networking event that connects aspiring teachers with Arizona school districts. Students have the opportunity to interview for teaching positions, gather information about practicum and student teaching opportunities and even sign letters of intent.

GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES

Students may enhance their academic and practical experiences by conducting their student teaching abroad. Our advisors are available to share the advantages of joining our teach abroad program and information on possible locations. In this program, students gain educational perspective in a real classroom and develop a global, multicultural mindset.

Student Spotlight: Jared Arvidson

Jared is a recent graduate who had the opportunity to complete his student-teaching requirement in Guatemala. He worked with a mentor teacher and was able to not only develop skills he will use in his new job as a classroom teacher, but also gained a multicultural perspective of education.



Community Involvement:

THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PARTNERSHIPS

In our continuous effort to provide opportunities for students to learn, lead and serve in our communities, the College of Education faculty members are involved in various partnerships with a number of local schools and districts. Teacher candidates have the opportunity to fulfill their programmatic requirement for practicum and student teaching.

For example, at one of GCU's Academic Excellence sites, Westwood Elementary School, early childhood education majors are involved in an embedded lab model where GCU faculty teach and lead courses on site at the elementary school. This allows our students to become members of the school community and observe teachers while creating, delivering and assessing weekly lessons. In other schools, our students serve as Restorative Justice peer mediators or as Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) tutors.

For more details, email coe.clinicalpractice@gcu.edu

"Westwood was such an amazing experience and a blessing. We partnered with our classmates to collaborate and create lessons, as well as worked with the teachers and principle to ensure we provided quality lessons. Without this experience, I would not have been as prepared to student teach or have my own classroom. I am so grateful and blessed for the opportunity to have worked at Westwood before completing my degree in early childhood education."

– Samantha McCorry, Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education

"I chose GCU primarily because I was seeking some adventure. I'm from a town near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and love to travel, and when I found out that GCU didn't charge out-of-state fees, and was a Christian university, I was intrigued. I loved the atmosphere and community and decided to take the leap and head across the country for college!"

– Maria Iniguez, College of Education graduate

"I am a part of the residency program at Westwood, which allows future educators to get a hands-on experience in the classroom by planning and teaching lessons to students ranging from preschool to third grade. This opportunity has shown me what a great educator really means. Every day, as I walk around Westwood, I am reminded that I am making an eternal difference in the lives of these students. I can say with all confidence that this program has prepared me to be the best teacher I can be for my students."

– Kayla Lara, Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education

Student Support Systems:

STUDENT SERVICES COUNSELOR (SSC):

SSCs assist students in the College of Education with scheduling around practicum hours and student teaching.

FIELD EXPERIENCE SPECIALIST (FES):

The FES represents the university and serves as the primary resource for supporting school personnel, teachers and faculty supervisors.

FIELD EXPERIENCE COUNSELOR (FEC):

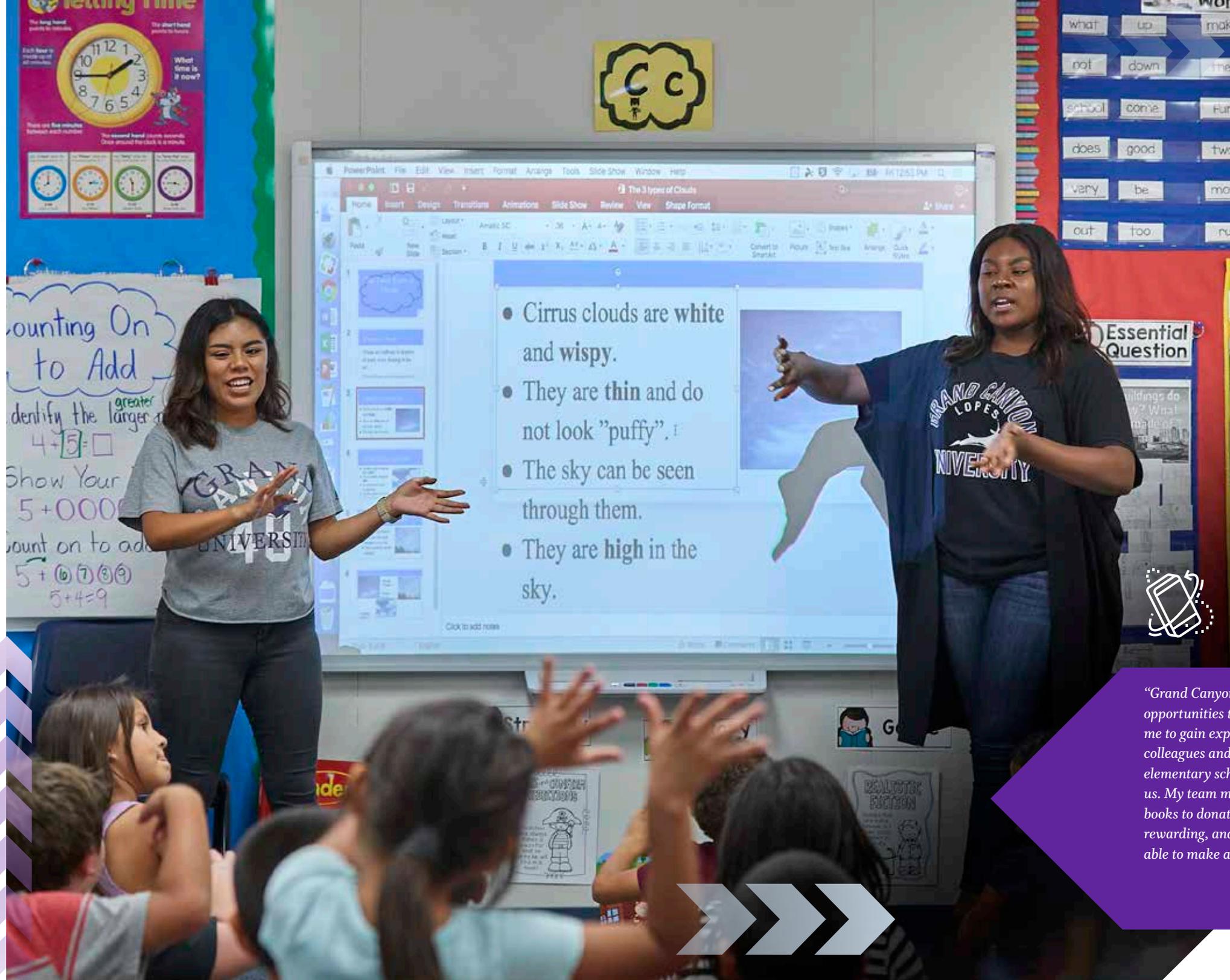
The FEC supports teacher candidates in meeting college-specific supplementary requirements and completing their program. Counselors are assigned to each state for current testing and licensing.

TEACHER PLACEMENT COUNSELOR (TPC):

The TPC completes clinical practice placement for the teacher candidate.

CLINICAL PRACTICE TEAM:

The clinical practice team includes individuals in the College of Education who support university faculty supervisors and classroom cooperating teachers. This team mentors students and teacher candidates.



What Knowledge and Skills Will I Gain That Schools Seek?

Our college is a great place to acquire skills that are sought after in all industries:

- Advocacy for classroom and community
- Collaboration
- Counseling
- Critical thinking
- Effective communication
- Facilitation
- Leadership
- Marketing and promotion
- Planning and preparation
- Presentation
- Project management
- Psychology
- Training and development



“Grand Canyon University has provided me with multiple opportunities to help out the surrounding community, while allowing me to gain experience in the field. My professor encouraged my colleagues and me to create a project that would help out the Title I elementary school. They supported us by assisting and encouraging us. My team members and I were inspired and raised over 2,000 books to donate to the elementary school. The overall experience was rewarding, and it was a reminder that a small group of colleagues are able to make a big difference in the community.”

– Julia Haug, Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education

Bachelor Programs

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

- Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

- Bachelor of Science in Educational Studies
- Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education
- Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with an Emphasis in Christian Education
- Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with an Emphasis in English as a Second Language
- Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with an Emphasis in STEM
- Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with an Emphasis in Teaching Reading

FINE ARTS EDUCATION

- Bachelor of Arts in Dance for Secondary Education
- Bachelor of Arts in Music Education – Choral: Piano
- Bachelor of Arts in Music Education – Choral: Voice
- Bachelor of Arts in Music Education – Instrumental: Brass, Woodwind, Percussion or Strings

- Bachelor of Arts in Music Education – Instrumental: Piano
- Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Education

SECONDARY EDUCATION

- Bachelor of Arts in English for Secondary Education
- Bachelor of Arts in History for Secondary Education
- Bachelor of Science in Biology for Secondary Education
- Bachelor of Science in Business for Secondary Education
- Bachelor of Science in Chemistry for Secondary Education
- Bachelor of Science in Mathematics for Secondary Education
- Bachelor of Science in Physical Education

SPECIAL EDUCATION

- Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education and Early Childhood Special Education
- Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and Special Education

Learn more about these degrees at gcu.edu/coe

Secondary Education Programs

Our secondary education programs benefit students by preparing them to be graduates who are highly qualified in effective teaching methods, as well as in their respective content areas (such as English, history, biology, chemistry, math, business or physical education). Secondary education programs support teacher certification and help graduates develop desired skills in content areas and the field of education to enhance their marketability.



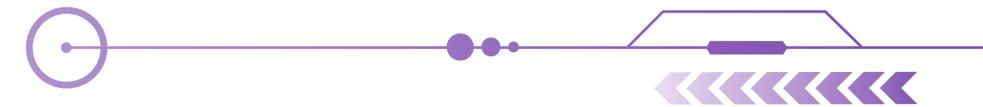
ACADEMIC MINOR DEGREE PROGRAMS

GCU's education majors can build robust degrees by combing their major with our various minor degree programs help traditional students maximize their education and give them a competitive advantage for today's workforce. A minor is earned in conjunction with a major degree and provides specialization within an academic area. Students can use their elective credits toward a minor degree and use it as a graduate school application differentiator. Across all colleges, students learn under the close attention of expert faculty and in classroom environments that cultivate higher ethics based on our Christian worldview.

Minor	# of Credits
Accounting	20
Advertising and Graphic Design	16
Athletic Coaching	24
Behavioral Health Sciences	20
Biblical Studies	20
Business Administration	32
Business Management	20
Christian Studies	16
Communication	16
Counseling	16
Dance	19
DB-Driven Web-based Applications Development	16
Digital Design	24
Digital Film	20
E-Business Applications Development	16
Enterprise Applications Development	16
Entrepreneurial Studies	16
Finance and Economics	28
General Business	20

Minor	# of Credits
Hospitality Management	16
Literature	16
Marketing	20
Military (ROTC-Army)	27
Military (ROTC-Air Force)	36
Music-Instrumental	24
Music-Vocal	24
Music-Piano	24
Philosophy	16
Pre-Law	16
Pre-Medicine	36
Professional Writing	16
Psychology	20
Social Work	16
Spanish	24
Sports Management	24
Theatre	24
Worship Arts	20

For a full list of minors, visit gcu.edu/minors



STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS: Meet Our Students



Name: Leah Heneveld
Degree: Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education

Why did you choose to pursue a degree in education?

I chose to pursue a degree in education to make a difference in each individual child's life. As a future educator, I have the wonderful opportunity to not only teach academics but also character to best prepare the next generation of world changers.

What has been your greatest experience or achievement in GCU's College of Education?

My greatest experience was the wonderful opportunity to be chosen to student teach abroad under the partnership of Grand Canyon University and CCTECC Interaction International. By being given this opportunity, GCU has gotten me one step closer to pursuing my dream of teaching abroad.

What are your career goals?

My career goals are to obtain a master's degree in speech language pathology (SLP) and teach abroad, whether it is short term or long term. Wherever God may have me, my goal is to make the most of every opportunity and continue learning on this educational journey.



Name: Vanessa Reidl
Degree: Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education

Why did you choose to pursue a degree in education?

I chose a degree in education because I have had teachers who believed in my abilities as a student when I did not believe in myself. My teachers have pushed me to be the best that I can be, which is why I want to do the same for my students. I want to be their biggest supporter—someone who challenges them to do what they think is impossible.

What has been your greatest experience or achievement in GCU's College of Education?

One of my greatest experiences has been the opportunity I've had in practicum to work one-on-one with students. My practicum teacher usually had me work with one boy in particular who struggled with staying on task. The attention I gave the student helped him focus more on his work. His teacher would constantly tell me how much he improved when I was there. Seeing the impact I had on him showed me how even the smallest acts, such as spending a few extra minutes with a student, makes all the difference.

What are your career goals?

My career goal is to first work for Grand Canyon University as a university admissions counselor to teach students and families about GCU and what it has to offer. I work at the Antelope Reception Center where I educate students and parents about GCU and it is something that brings me great joy. After a few years, I would love to teach second grade and inspire the next generation to love knowledge and find their passions.



Name: Lizbeth Garcia Bernal
Degree: Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with an Emphasis in English as a Second Language

Why did you choose to pursue a degree in education?

My passion for inspiring young minds is what motivates me to pursue a degree in education. Growing up in a less privileged community provided financial and academic challenges, but it also helped me realize the value of education. As a senior in high school, I realized that my aspiration belonged to not only myself, but to my parents who were barred by injustices. I had the privilege of completing an internship that sparked my interest and helped me find my passion for teaching. I hope to be able to inspire the next generation and help students pursue their dreams. I wish to mirror the exceptional teachers I've had the privilege of working with.

What has been your greatest experience or achievement in GCU's College of Education?

My biggest accomplishment, besides joining the Honors College and switching my major from mechanical engineering to elementary education, is becoming a student officer for the Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society. It is an honor to be a part of such a prestigious society. I have also had the privilege of tutoring students at an elementary school and speaking to future students, scholarship donors and individuals of all ages about GCU and the education program.

What are your career goals?

I desire profoundly to become an elementary teacher. I have an emphasis in English as a second language and I have always dreamed of moving to another country to teach students of low socioeconomic levels to work hard, break all barriers and learn concepts that will help them reach their desired goals. I hope to become a role model and for my classroom to become a safe place for students who are having issues at home.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Where are They Now?



Name: Aimee Frank
Degree: Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education
Year of Graduation: Winter '18

What has been your greatest experience or achievement in GCU's College of Education?

GCU's COE provided the opportunity to be involved in a Reading Advocacy Volunteer program with Isaac School District. I worked with first graders at J. B. Sutton Elementary School to help them develop reading skills including phonics, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension. Facilitating these small groups greatly impacted my desire to work in lower grade levels, helping young students develop their reading.

Where are you now in your career?

I'm a first grade teacher at Acacia Elementary School in Washington Elementary School District in Glendale, AZ.

What advice do you have for incoming education students?

Take advantage of any opportunities that your professors mention in class. They have connections to many different types of learning opportunities that can help you find your niche in teaching. Have a willingness to visit different types of schools and grade levels and learn from different teaching styles. Ask questions and always welcome constructive feedback!



Name: Jesse Hoover
Degree: Bachelor of Science in Mathematics for Secondary Education
Year of Graduation: Spring '18

What has been your greatest experience or achievement in GCU's College of Education?

My greatest experience at GCU has to be the lifetime connections that I have made. The college's professors truly cared about my education and their passion for what they do truly shows every day in class. I was reminded daily why I wanted to become a teacher. We were also pushed to make connections with our peers and create a support system for each other. I am still friends today with my core college friends that I met in my COE classes. Without them and the push of my professors I would not have been the student I was when I was here or the teacher I am today in the classroom.

Where are you now in your career?

I am in my second year at Carl Hayden Community High School in Phoenix. I am a graduate of the school and I love my community. I was also named Certified Teacher of the Year after just one year. I am a public school advocate and heavily involved in supporting student activities like sporting events and sponsoring the annual prom.

What advice do you have for incoming education students?

Don't forget why you are here, kids! The journey to get into the classroom is different for everyone and it takes some people longer than others. However, once you are in the classroom you will be reminded daily that you chose the right path because you are passionate and are meant to do this. Always communicate with your support system when things are getting rough. You are not alone in this journey and there are so many people in your corner cheering you on. You got this!



Name: Samantha Ness
Degree: Bachelor of Arts in History for Secondary Education
Year of Graduation: Spring '18

What has been your greatest experience or achievement in GCU's College of Education?

The best part about the college is the professors and their willingness to see their students succeed. Practicum, and college in general, can be challenging and these professors open their office whenever a student needs something in order to help them flourish. The college also introduces you to friends who turn into colleagues and helps students create a network for when they leave the GCU bubble.

Where are you now in your career?

Currently I am entering my second year in the classroom, teaching on-level 10th grade world history and launching an AP human geography program for freshmen at Copper Canyon High School. I am attending a Gilder Lehrman seminar to study at the WWI Museum, in which I beat out hundreds of applicants for a position. I am also grateful for the opportunity to aid in writing the social studies curriculum for world history teachers in my district.

What advice do you have for incoming education students?

The time and effort you put into the program, or lack of, is what you will receive from it. Nothing is going to be simply handed to you, so go and fight for it. Get into as many different classroom settings as possible, so when you get the chance to have a classroom of your own, you are confident it's the best fit. Lastly, studying is important, but there has to be a balance of fun as well.

ALTERNATE ACADEMIC PATHWAYS IN THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Supporting Your Journey: Undergraduate Degree to Doctorate

If you desire to or currently work in this rewarding field, you may wonder which path is right for you. GCU provides various academic pathways that include bachelor's, master's and doctoral programs for all types of careers. The College of Education is here to help you pursue, advance or change your career that aligns with your interests and how you want to make an impact.

ARIZONA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION'S 2020 TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS:

COE alumna **Lynette Stant**, was named the Teacher of the Year. She will go on to compete at the national teacher of the year competition. She obtained her Master of Arts in Teaching degree in 2006. She is a third grade teacher at Salt River Elementary School in Salt River Schools, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

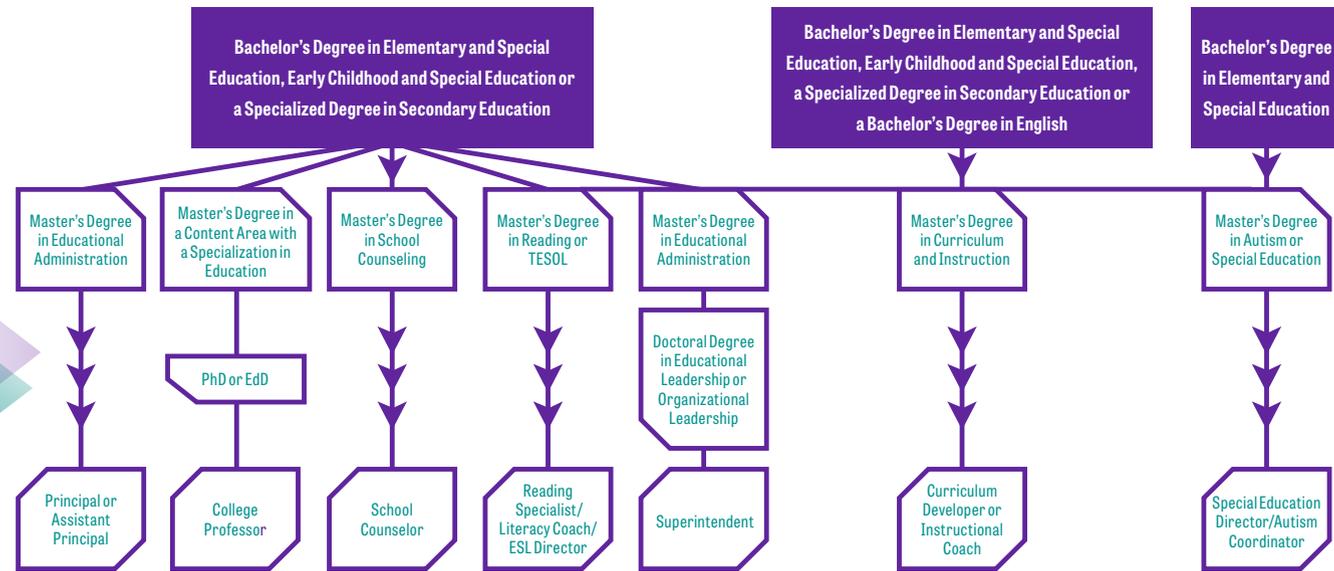
Three other COE alum were in the top 10 group: >>>>

Lauren Cluff: K-6th grade reading interventionist at Hughes Elementary School in Mesa Public Schools, Mesa, Arizona. She received her MA in Curriculum and Instruction in Reading from GCU in 2014.

Angie Edington: Early childhood special education teacher at Faith North Early Childhood Learning Center in Phoenix. She received her MA in Curriculum and Instruction in Reading from GCU in 2007.

Allison McElwee: Third grade teacher at Mountain View Elementary School in Prescott Valley. She received her Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from GCU in 2014.

Explore our featured pathways and career opportunities!



"Westwood Elementary School has been so fortunate to have such quality GCU interns, student teachers and graduates working within our lab school and ultimately as members of our teaching staff. It is through our quality partnership that has been built on a foundation of servant leadership, that our community is flourishing not only through our community garden, but within and outside the walls of our school."

– GCU Hall of Fame, Theresa Killingsworth, principal at Westwood Elementary School



COE Podcast: Top of the Class

Top of the Class is a podcast by educators for educators of all kinds. If you live with a passion and purpose for teaching, you don't want to miss an episode! Hosts Emily Pottinger and Dr. Meredith Critchfield welcome special guests, address new hot topics and spark challenging, inspiring and insightful conversations on everything related to teaching. Join the **#LopesTeachUp** conversation and elevate the education profession. Listen to Top of the Class on iTunes, Spotify, Sticher, Google Play Music and more. Tune in each month and be sure to subscribe, review and share! Follow us on Twitter **@GCU_TOTC**



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EDUCATION ► *Top 5's*

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- **Semester-Long Student Teaching** *pg. 14*
- **Embedded Experience** *pg. 15*

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To learn more about Grand Canyon University, undergraduate programs offered on campus, available scholarships and more, contact an admissions counselor.

Visit the GCU website to explore all of our undergraduate education programs!

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