

College of Education



EDUCATION PROGRAMS

FIND YOUR PURPOSE

GRAND CANYON
UNIVERSITY®

PRIVATE. CHRISTIAN. AFFORDABLE.

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

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.



The College of Education Advantage: What Makes Us Different

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.

PRACTICUM/FIELD EXPERIENCES

Practicum and field experiences are embedded in certain core education courses to ensure classroom learning coexists with hands-on experiences. Students will observe a classroom and assist with tasks, assignments, lesson planning and more. GCU has counselors that help students with self-placement, professor placement and/or public, private, charter or faith-based school settings.

STUDENT TEACHING

Programs that lead to initial teacher licensure within the College of Education culminate with the teacher candidates completing the student teaching experience in a brick-and-mortar classroom setting. Taken at the conclusion of all coursework, student teaching requires 15–16 weeks (dependent upon 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 opportunity to teach in their desired district/school site before and after graduation.

ARIZONA STUDENT TEACHING INTERN 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 included in the applicable programs of study. Some students may continue in the same district or school after the completion of their student teaching.

CANYON GLOBAL EDUCATORS

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, as well as information regarding possible locations. In this program, students gain educational perspective in a real classroom and develop a global, multicultural mindset.



**#18 BEST
COLLEGE CAMPUS
IN AMERICA***

**#6 BEST
COLLEGE DORMS
IN AMERICA****

*Niche.com, Grand Canyon University Rankings in AUGUST 2021

**Niche.com 2021 college rankings

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.

Student Support Systems

STUDENT SERVICES COUNSELOR (SSC)

SSCs provide a support system to help education majors navigate coursework, scheduling, requirements for practicum hours in the field, financial opportunities, and path to an expedited graduation date.

FIELD EXPERIENCE SPECIALIST (FES)

The FES represents GCU and the College of Education, creating new opportunities and fostering established connections and partnerships. Education majors benefit from the terms and agreements set between all parties involved in making the customizable path to teacher licensure more attainable.

FIELD EXPERIENCE COUNSELOR (FEC)

The FEC is exclusive to education majors at GCU and a free resource. Students will feel empowered to create their own path for practicum hours and meet on a semesterly basis to discuss state licensure requirements in a location of their interest.

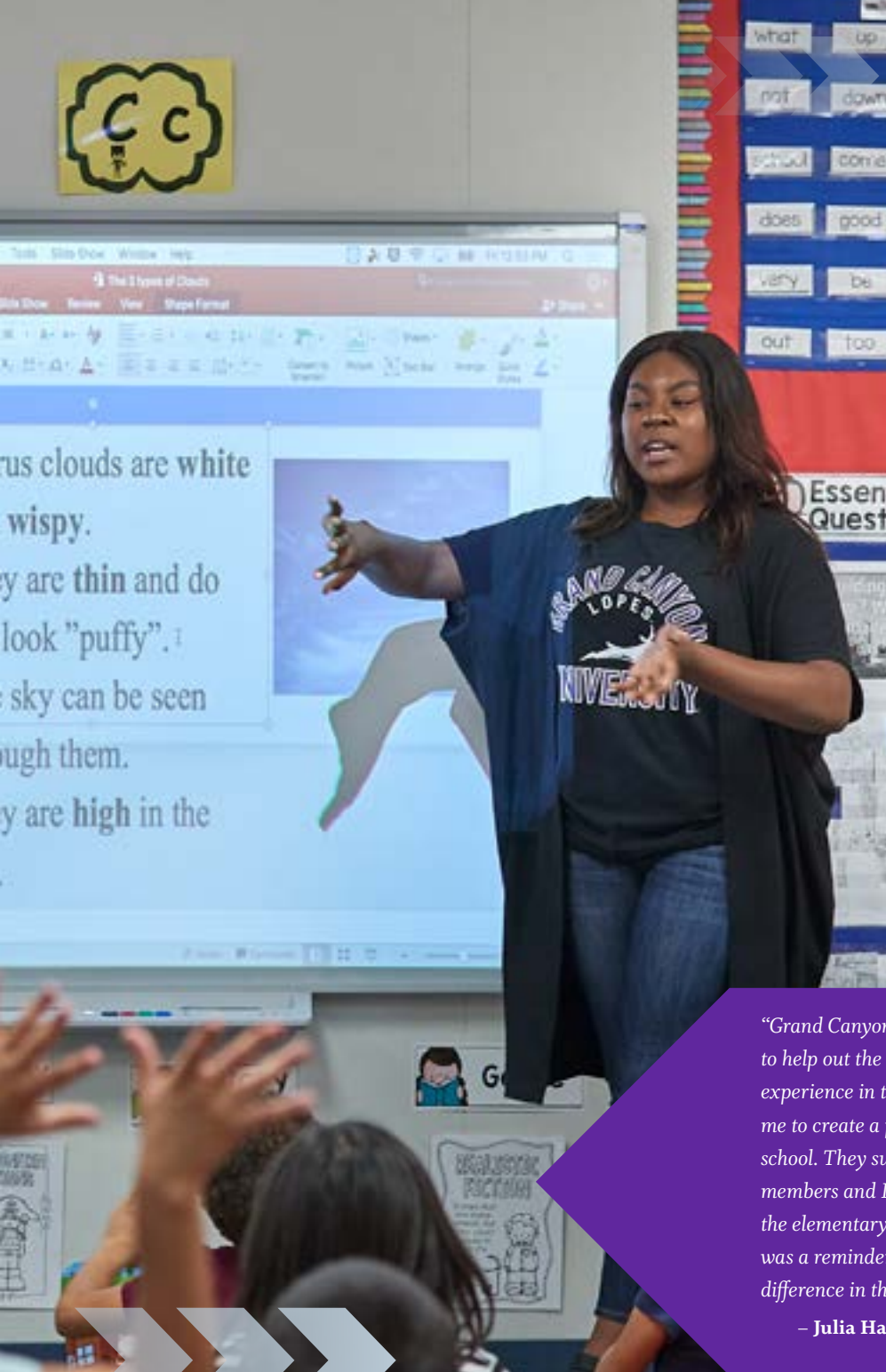
TEACHER PLACEMENT COUNSELOR (TPC)

The TPC is a crucial component to a student's understanding and interest in pursuit of the location and expectations for their student teaching. Students may choose to complete their student teaching in Arizona, in their home state or internationally.

CLINICAL PRACTICE TEAM

The clinical practice team within the College of Education supports the process and offers mentorship to student and teacher candidates in addition to the guidance these learners receive from faculty supervisors and classroom cooperating teachers. Our connections, networks and partnerships create multiple avenues for your pursuit of a career in education.





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



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 more details, email coe.clinicalpractice@gcu.edu

“I suffer from dyslexia and this struggle is what has driven me to become a teacher. My professor was working to introduce the bill in Arizona to implement dyslexia screening into public schools. When I was asked to come and help present the bill with her team, I jumped at the chance to try and help other kids like me. Our bill was passed and it is one step closer to becoming a law. My time here has been incredible and life changing. My work with my professor has prompted me to add a special education certification on to my major with the goal of being able to further help those who struggle.”

– Eva Lippert, Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education

“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

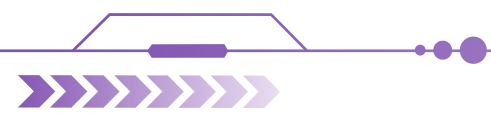


Career Readiness for High-Demand Jobs

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 current positive state of employment in education, from teaching in the classroom to school administration and leadership. We ensure students have the many skills needed for success in today's job market.

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.



Ways to Get Involved

EDUCATORS RISING OF GCU

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

Visit gcu.edu/EducatorsRising

“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

LOPES FOR LITERACY

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 bring Lopes for Literacy to their local school.

Contact coe@gcu.edu

EXPLORE MORE

Explore More sessions are hosted throughout the semester by faculty to help students understand tough subject matters and tackle challenging courses among their peers. Our faculty provide focused sessions that prepare candidates to successfully take their NES® (National Evaluation Series™) 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)



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 students enjoy each other's company, the main purpose is to build a community within early childhood education. Big Lopes - Lil' Lopes is there to help everyone achieve success.

To join, email
GCUBigLopesLilLopes@gmail.com



Get involved!

VCU EDTECH CLUB

Looking to grow in the area of technology in the classroom? VCU EdTech is a club for current or former VCU 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 Jillian Hartman and Brian Clark.

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

Flipgrid: flipgrid.com/edtechclub

Code to join: edtechclub

Password: [VCUedtech](#)

(VCU must be in all caps)

Email EdTechClub@gcu.edu

Interested in engaging further with us? Follow us!

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

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

Blog: [Teaching in Purple](#)

Email us: coe@gcu.edu

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 for Secondary 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 to 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.

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?

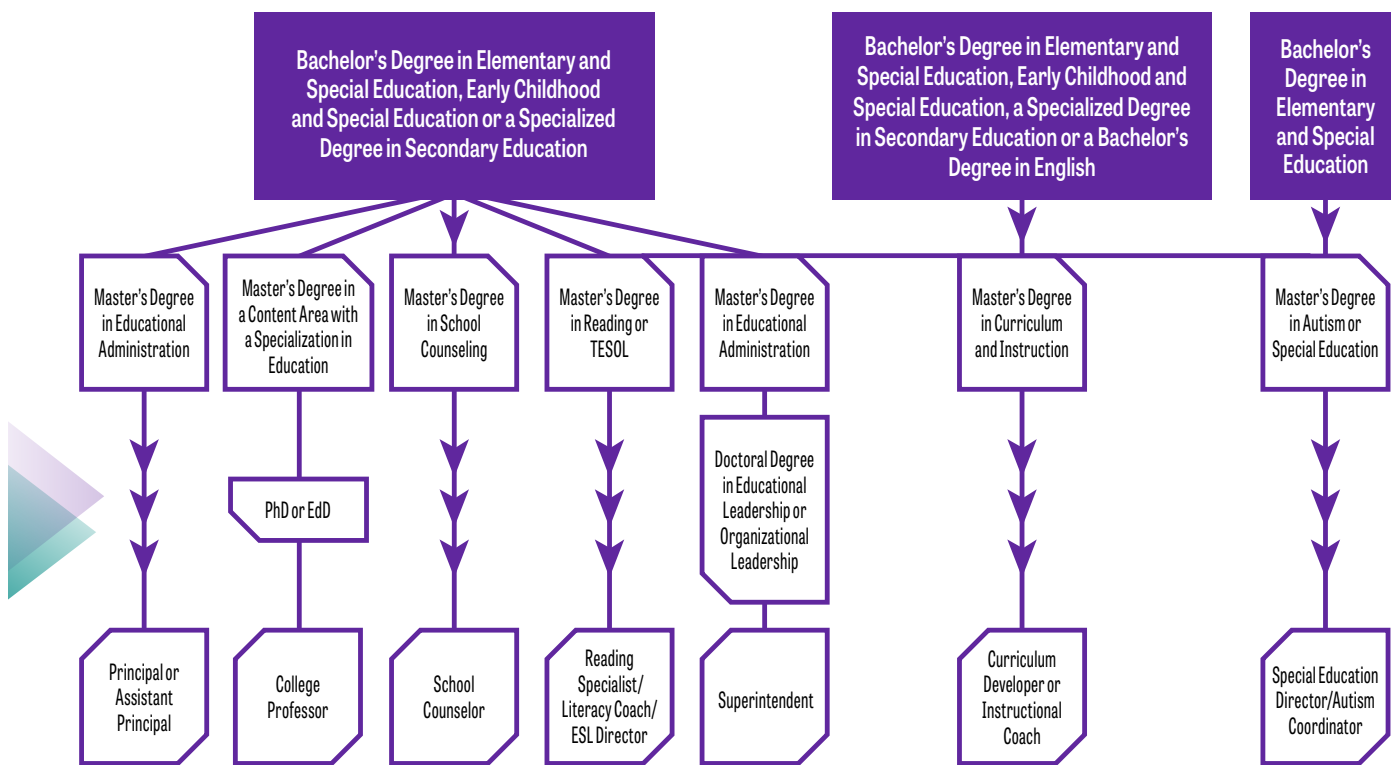
The time and effort you put into the program, or lack of, is what you will receive from it. Nothing is going to be simply handed to you, so go and fight for it. Get into as many different classroom settings as possible, so when you get the chance to have a classroom of your own, you are confident it's 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 so that it aligns with your interests and the way in which you want to make an impact.

*Explore our featured pathways and career opportunities!**



*These pathways do not include possible testing, state or years of experience requirements so please check with your district or state.

"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 Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Stitcher, Google Play Music and more. Subscribe, review and share!

Follow us on Twitter @GCU_TOTC



EDUCATION ▶ *Top 5's*

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- ▶ **Professional Learning Network** *pg. 8*
- ▶ **Degree Programs** *pg. 13*
- ▶ **Student Testimonials** *pg. 5, 7, 11, 14, 15*

NEXT *steps:*

- 1** ▶ Apply for free at gcu.edu/ApplyNow
- 2** ▶ Upload your transcripts and submit your test scores
- 3** ▶ Upon acceptance, visit campus
(all-expenses paid* programs available)
- 4** ▶ Register for courses and pay the registration deposit



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

855-428-7884
[gcu.edu/CampusAdmissions](https://www.gcu.edu/CampusAdmissions)

*Restrictions for travel reimbursement may apply

Grand Canyon University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (hlcommission.org), an institutional accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Please note, not all GCU programs are available in all states and in all learning modalities. Program availability is contingent on student enrollment. Pre-licensure nursing students who begin or resume attendance in Fall 2020 and beyond will be ineligible to utilize most GCU institutional aid/scholarships for tuition and fees once accepted into the clinical portion of the program. Important policy information is available in the University Policy Handbook at <https://www.gcu.edu/academics/academic-policies.php>. The information printed in this material is accurate as of JANUARY 2022. For the most up-to-date information about admission requirements, tuition, scholarships and more, visit [gcu.edu](https://www.gcu.edu). ©2021 Grand Canyon University 21GTR0582