

**FIND YOUR PURPOSE**

Private. Christian. Affordable.

**GRAND CANYON  
UNIVERSITY®**

College of Education

**EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

GCU is ranked as the #1  
best college for education  
in Arizona for 2024,  
according to Niche.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Retrieved from Niche.com, Grand Canyon University Rankings in September 2023



# *Message from* **THE DEAN**

I couldn't be more excited to invite you to join the College of Education – a select, dynamic and passionate group of educators. During your time in our college, we will come alongside you to build the knowledge, skills and relationships that you need to step into the classroom. Since 1949, the College of Education has had a rich history of preparing excellent educators. In fact, we are so confident in our students who graduate our programs – along with our esteemed faculty – that we promise to stand beside you as you work in an educational setting. If you are called to make a difference in the lives of children and adolescents, you are in the right place. We are here for you and we're excited for you to consider joining our College of Education family.

***– Meredith Critchfield, PhD, Dean of the College of Education***

***The College of Education aligns its curriculum with the standards set by the Higher Learning Commission, national accreditors and professional affiliates. These standards help us produce credible, qualified teachers and professionals.***

For more information regarding accreditation, visit [gcu.edu/COEaccreditation](https://gcu.edu/COEaccreditation)

# WHY GCU?

Grand Canyon University has been helping students find their purpose and achieve their potential for over 70 years. We are dedicated to servant leadership, academic excellence and scholastic opportunity for all.

# OUR MISSION

*The College of Education strives to:*

- Inspire excellence in pedagogy and scholarship.
- Advance reflective, innovative and collaborative teaching practices to maximize teacher candidate learning and achievement.
- Promote servant leadership in educational communities.
- Engage a diverse and global community of learners with purpose and passion.

*Here are just a few of the ways that GCU's College of Education can help you achieve both your personal and professional goals as you prepare to make a difference in the lives of your future students:*

## CURRICULUM

We work to deliver a challenging curriculum designed to support teacher candidates as they learn to interact with a variety of students in different school environments. The curriculum emphasizes pedagogical excellence, scholarship and best practices. We strive to empower teacher candidates 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. Teacher candidates will observe a classroom and assist with tasks, assignments, lesson planning and more. GCU has counselors that help teacher candidates 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 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, potentially allowing them the opportunity to teach in their desired district/school site before and after graduation.

# DEGREE PROGRAMS

The College of Education offers a wide variety of degree programs that provide an educational experience designed to prepare teaching candidates to graduate equipped with effective teaching methods, as well as expertise in their respective content areas (English, history, mathematics, etc.).



For more details and a full listing of degrees, visit [gcu.edu/COE](https://www.gcu.edu/COE)



## Elementary Education

This degree can prepare teachers to tailor content, instruction and projects that meet diverse student needs and interests in grades K-8. Other job responsibilities include motivating and engaging students, establishing behavioral rules and communicating with parents.

## Early Childhood Education

Graduates of this early childhood education bachelor's degree (online or on campus) will have the opportunity to be qualified to teach birth through third grade and work as preschool teachers and daycare providers. This bachelor's degree curriculum includes instructional strategies, teaching methodologies, assessment techniques, theories of early childhood growth and development and the impact of family and cultural diversity on early childhood.

## Educational Studies

This non-licensure degree can prepare graduates to work toward a brighter future by influencing educational policies, laws, programs and curricula. Teacher candidates taking this program will critically examine and analyze pedagogical theories, teaching practices, education laws and learning environments.

## English for Secondary Education

This degree program can prepare aspiring English teachers to meet the challenges of the modern secondary education classroom. Graduates who successfully complete state certification requirements will be qualified to teach students in grades 6-12. This degree program is a joint initiative of GCU's College of Education and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

## History for Secondary Education

High school history teachers do more than teach facts, events and dates—they impart ethical standards and wisdom developed over centuries of human history. Teacher candidates take coursework that aligns with the requirements established by the National Council for Social Studies (NCSS). Graduates who successfully complete state certification requirements will be qualified to teach students in grades 6-12.

## Mathematics for Secondary Education

This degree program can prepare aspiring math teachers to pursue a career inspiring and educating adolescent learners. Graduates will have the opportunity to be prepared to use critical thinking and general problem-solving skills to tackle difficulties within any field and to help their own students do the same. This degree program is a joint initiative of GCU's College of Education and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Graduates who successfully complete state certification requirements will be qualified to teach students in grades 6-12.

## Biology for Secondary Education

This degree is designed to provide future middle school and high school teachers with the content knowledge they need to be biology teachers. In addition to the biology teaching degree, graduates can earn initial teacher licensure and, upon successful completion of state certification requirements, will be qualified to teach students in grades 6-12.

## Physical Education

This physical education degree can be an ideal choice for teacher candidates who possess an enduring love of sports, physical fitness and wellness. Physical education (PE) teachers can serve as powerful role models and motivators for the next generation as they model how to make healthy choices and reach one's full potential in the PreK-12 grade school setting.



**“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, Dean of the College of Education*



# SUPPORTING YOUR ACADEMIC JOURNEY

# ACADEMIC PATHWAYS FOR A CAREER IN EDUCATION

## BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN



- ▶ ELEMENTARY EDUCATION
- ▶ EARLY CHILDHOOD AND SPECIAL EDUCATION
- ▶ ELEMENTARY AND SPECIAL EDUCATION
- ▶ SPECIALIZED DEGREE IN SECONDARY EDUCATION
- ▶ EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

**SCHOOL TEACHER**  
**TEACHING ASSISTANT**

### MASTER'S DEGREE IN EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION

- Education and Childcare Administrator, Preschool and Daycare
- Education Administrator, Kindergarten - Secondary and Post-Secondary

### MASTER'S DEGREE IN SCHOOL COUNSELING

- Educational, Guidance and Career Counselor and Advisor

### MASTER'S DEGREE IN READING

- Middle and Secondary Teacher
- Post-Secondary Education Teacher

### MASTER'S DEGREE IN TEACHING ENGLISH TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (TESOL)

- Preschool, Kindergarten and Elementary Teacher
- Adult Basic Education, Adult Secondary Education and English as a Second Language Instructor

### MASTER'S DEGREE IN CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

- Post-Secondary Education Teacher
- Instructional Coordinator

### MASTER'S DEGREE IN INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN OR INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY

- Training and Development Specialist
- Librarian and Media Collections Specialist
- Instructional Coordinator

### MASTER'S DEGREE IN AUTISM OR SPECIAL EDUCATION

- Special Education Teacher: Preschool, Kindergarten, Elementary, Middle and Secondary School
- Post-Secondary Education Teacher
- Special Education Teaching Assistant

- ▶ PHD OR EDD IN A CONTENT AREA WITH A SPECIALIZATION IN EDUCATION
- ▶ EdD IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP
- ▶ EdD IN ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP

## DOCTORATE

### POTENTIAL CAREER OPTIONS (POST DOCTORATE)

- ▶ EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE ADMINISTRATION
- ▶ TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST
- ▶ SELF-ENRICHMENT TEACHER
- ▶ ADULT BASIC EDUCATION, ADULT SECONDARY EDUCATION AND ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE INSTRUCTOR

# STUDENT WORK AND INTERNSHIPS

## ARIZONA STUDENT TEACHING INTERN CERTIFICATE (Arizona STIC)

The Arizona Student Teaching Intern Certificate is available to eligible candidates who have secured a contract with a district and are currently enrolled in the student teaching capstone experience of one of the eligible licensure programs. This exciting and unique opportunity is made available to qualified teacher candidates who are looking for compensation during student teaching. Our alumni attribute their success in the Arizona STIC to the number of embedded practicum/field experiences that are included in the applicable programs of study. Some teacher candidates may choose to continue in the same district or school after the completion of their student teaching.

## CANYON GLOBAL EDUCATORS

Teacher candidates who qualify for this opportunity may enhance their academic and practical experiences by taking part in teaching and learning experiences abroad. Our advisors are available to share the advantages of joining our Canyon Global Educators program, as well as information regarding possible locations. In this program, teacher candidates gain educational perspectives 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.



# STUDENT SUPPORT SYSTEMS

## FIELD EXPERIENCE COUNSELOR (FEC)

Field Experience Counselors (FEC) are dedicated to helping education students through the practicum process through placement assistance. These counselors are also well-informed and specialize in preparing students to apply for their teaching license wherever they plan to teach after graduation.

## TEACHER PLACEMENT COUNSELOR (TPC)

The Teacher Placement Counselor (TPC) is a crucial component to a teacher candidate's pursuit of the location and expectations for their student teaching. Teacher candidates may choose to complete their student teaching in Arizona or in their home state.

**“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*



# HELPING TEACHERS CHANGE THE WORLD

## PLEDGE AND PROMISE

Pledge and Promise is an assistance program that any education alumni can take advantage of while they are working as an educator. Alumni can simply contact the College of Education to receive a refresher course or mentorship. This is the way that the College of Education provides support to teachers who are changing the world from their classrooms.

## RESCUE SUBSTITUTES

GCU teacher candidates can apply for an Emergency Substitute Certificate in the state of Arizona and further prepare themselves for the teaching field by becoming rescue substitutes. This opportunity allows teacher candidates to fulfill their practicum hours in the classroom while also being paid as a substitute. GCU's College of Education is doing our part to help solve the substitute shortage while preparing teacher candidates to change the world with their impact in the classroom.



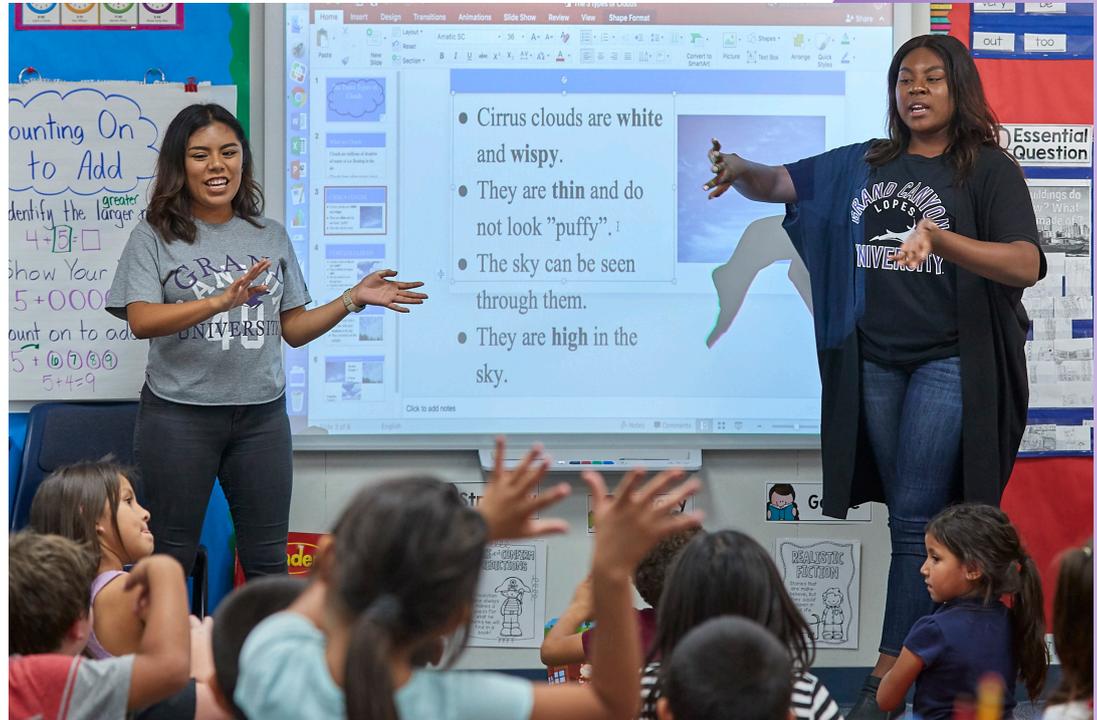
# ON-CAMPUS FACILITIES AND STUDENT RESOURCES

## MODEL CLASSROOM

This space is used for many methods courses. Faculty and teacher candidates can use this space as a “mock” classroom space to better mirror what they may see in a PreK-12 classroom space with manipulatives, a horseshoe table and touchscreen technology. Teacher candidates will conduct a number of lessons or “teach outs” where they have to model their own lessons in front of peers and faculty in this space.

## MULTICULTURAL LIBRARY

The Multicultural Library is a community-driven space where faculty and teacher candidates explore diverse texts when creating lesson plans. Faculty bring classes to the library to explore the texts for research purposes, lesson planning development and the examination of diversity in literature.



# LOPES LEAP TO TEACH

Lopes Leap to Teach is a College of Education initiative launched in December 2014 to help Arizona school districts connect with qualified teachers. Districts and schools from across the state visit GCU's campus to present features of each school's culture, curriculum, diverse programs and available resources. Through relationship building during these events, teacher candidates can learn more about each district and school for potential practicum hours, student teaching requests and future employment.





# WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

## EDUCATORS RISING

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 can learn more about education, participate in hands-on leadership and prepare to potentially become first-rate teachers. We host many fun activities throughout the year, so be sure to get involved! Visit [gcu.edu/EducatorsRising](https://gcu.edu/EducatorsRising)

## EXPLORE MORE

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

## LOPES FOR LITERACY

Lopes for Literacy is GCU's College of Education-sponsored outreach program that encourages children in neighboring schools to read and develop a passion for books. Contact [coe@gcu.edu](mailto:coe@gcu.edu)

## SOCIAL MEDIA

GCU's College of Education maintains active and robust social media sites, particularly on Instagram, Facebook, X and LinkedIn. Each platform provides our students, alumni and partners with a variety of information including college activities, job opportunities and our outstanding "Life with a First Year Teacher" reels.

## "TOP OF THE CLASS" PODCAST

This monthly podcast was developed by educators for educators of all kinds. Whether you're studying to become a teacher, a paraprofessional, a classroom teacher or an administrator, you are welcome to join the discussion! You can find "Top of the Class" on your Apple Podcast app.

# NEXT STEPS



# TAKE THESE NEXT STEPS

1



Apply at [gcu.edu/ApplyNow](https://gcu.edu/ApplyNow) and upload your transcripts. No application fee!

2



Make an appointment with your counselor to review scholarships and programs.

3



Upon acceptance, visit campus (all-expenses-paid<sup>1</sup> programs available).

4



Register early to secure courses and on-campus housing.

5



Pack your sunglasses and move to Lope Country!

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## 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://gcu.edu/CampusAdmissions)**

<sup>1</sup>Travel reimbursement is only available to students who demonstrate their ability to meet admissibility for the traditional campus, plus one legal guardian, from a student's home city/state to Phoenix, AZ. School/district/organizations staff, faculty and/or personnel are also eligible. To participate, the program requires a signed MOU by both the student and parent/guardian or personnel, approval of travel dates by GCU and receipts submitted per GCU requirements. Travel reimbursement thresholds vary based on location and education sector. Only one form of travel will be reimbursed, air or ground. GCU does not reimburse hotel expenses, baggage costs, early check-in or travel insurance fees. Travel reimbursement usually occurs within 45 days.



**GCU**<sup>TM</sup>

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Grand Canyon University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission ([hlcommission.org](https://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. 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 MAY 2024. For the most up-to-date information about admission requirements, tuition, scholarships and more, visit [gcu.edu](https://www.gcu.edu). Approved by the Dean of the College of Education on April 22, 2024.

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