HDFS
Elementary Education Dual Degree

Frequently Asked Questions

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BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE DUAL DEGREE

How does this Dual Degree Work?

Be twice the teacher! You will get two different degrees from two different institutions:

- NDSU Transcript & Diploma in:
  Human Development & Family Science, Child Development Option
- VCSU Transcript & Diploma in:
  Elementary Education

You can do it in just four years and virtually all on the NDSU campus.
The faculty from VCSU does almost all the commuting! They teach all of the Education courses on the NDSU campus. (With the exception of a one-week summer course in late May of your junior year: EDUC 210) Elementary Education

4-Year Plan

Students must be actively enrolled at NDSU seeking a HDFS degree to be eligible to be in this collaborative program between NDSU and VCSU.

What classes are required to get these degrees?
You must pass all of the required classes listed on the curriculum guide in place when you declare your major as elementary education. A “curriculum guide” is simply a list of required classes maintained by Registration & Records. Current Curriculum Guide

TEACHING LICENSE

What will I be licensed to teach?
Students completing this program and North Dakota licensure requirements will be eligible to teach grades 1 – 6 in ND. Other endorsements credentials and certifications are available with additional coursework.

Optional Certifications, Credentials Endorsements and Minors
- English Language Learner (ELL)
- Kindergarten Endorsement
- Middle School Endorsement
- Reading Endorsement
- STEM Certification
- Library Minor
- Strategist Special Education Endorsement
**Out-of-State Licensure**

Valley City State University’s nationally accredited education programs meet requirements for North Dakota teacher licensure. Although most states accept teacher education graduates from accredited institutions for licensure, VCSU cannot confirm nor advise that education programs meet requirements for every state. Students seeking licensure in states other than North Dakota should contact the appropriate licensing board in the state in which they are pursuing licensure.

**PROGRAM LENGTH**

**How long does this program take?**

The dual degree program is designed to be completed in four years with just 126 credit hours. [Elementary Education 4-Year Plan](#)

**APPLICATION PROCESS**

**Do I have to apply to VCSU?**

Yes, but this is all done through the NDSU School of Education office the semester before you begin taking VCSU classes. See: What are the steps to register for VCSU classes?

**What are the requirements to be admitted into the VCSU Teacher Education Program?**

Students are typically admitted into Teacher Education after completing EDUC 250 Introduction to Teacher Education. In this course the Teacher Education Handbook is reviewed and enrollees are given an application form to complete and submit to the Elementary Education Chair and the Teacher Education Committee.

**Criteria for Admission to Teacher Education**

Students must apply to the Teacher Education Committee and meet the following criteria to be approved for admission:

1. A minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.75.
   
   A teacher candidate seeking admission to Teacher Education with a cumulative GPA between 2.50 and 2.74 may be considered for approval to Teacher Education by the Teacher Education Committee if the candidate has a 2.75 GPA in the candidate’s education major(s) or a minimum cumulative GPA
of 2.75 in the past two semesters. The teacher candidate must also have acceptable dispositions and field experience evaluations.

2. Satisfactory academic performance with a “C” or better in the general education composition and successful completion of a speech screening test.

3. Written recommendations gathered from the advisor, School of Education instructor, and any other related professionals.

4. Meet state standards on North Dakota required tests to measure prospective teacher’s content knowledge in reading, writing, and mathematics. See www.ets.org/praxis/nd/requirements for test requirements.

5. Demonstrate proper dispositions necessary to teach for learning.

6. Satisfactory academic performance with a “C” or better in EDUC 250: Introduction to Education.

The Teacher Education Committee will review the documentation and make a recommendation to the dean to accept or deny the application for admission to the program. If the applicant is denied admission due to a condition that can be corrected, the applicant may reapply when the deficiency is removed.

For more information regarding admission and continuance in the Teacher Education Program at VCSU visit: http://www.vcsu.edu/teacher_ed

TEACHER LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION EXAMS

PRAXIS EXAMS

Will I have to take the Praxis I and II, Teacher Licensure and Certification Exams? When should I take it?

Like many teacher education programs, students in the VCSU Elementary Education Program are required to take the Praxis I & II.

Praxis exams are administered primarily in computer-based formats. To find out more about the dates, cost and required minimum scores, please contact one of the VCSU Elementary Education Faculty. Additional PPST/Praxis information is available online at: http://www.ets.org/praxis/nd/requirements

The Core Academic Skills for Educators (Core) exam is the Praxis I assessment of basic skills. The Core exam replaced the PPST on 9/1/14. The Core measures reading, writing and math skills. Students are encouraged to take this exam either before or during the semester they are enrolled in Introduction to Education, EDUC 250.
Praxis II measures specific teacher education subject knowledge. Students take this test right before student teaching. For ND licensure, elementary education students must pass the Praxis II tests:

- **5017 Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment**
- **5622 Principles of Learning and Teaching: Grades K-6 Subject Tests.**

Note: All Elementary Education majors must take the ND Praxis I and II tests. [http://www.ets.org/praxis/nd/requirements](http://www.ets.org/praxis/nd/requirements)
REGISTRATION FOR CLASSES

What are the steps to register for VCSU classes?

Step One: Apply to VCSU

*Application for Admission VCSU Elementary Education at NDSU* form is obtained from the NDSU/VCSU Elementary Education Liaison

The application must be turned in to The NDSU/VCSU Elementary Education Liaison in EML 270 by the stated deadline.

(Dual degree students **do not** need to complete the “regular” VCSU admission form or pay the admission fee).

Step Two: Send transcripts to VCSU

*Request all of OFFICIAL transcripts sent directly to the VCSU Registrar.*

Registrar’s Office
Valley City State University
101 College Street SW
Valley City, ND 58072

Step Three: Register for VCSU Classes:

To register for the VCSU classes, students must fill out the Collaborative Course Request (VCSU Elem. Ed. via NDSU) and turn it into CERES 110.

This form is found on the NDSU Registration and Records Site under: “FORMS”

http://www.ndsu.edu/registrar/forms/

Step Four: Register for NDSU Classes:

Students will register for their NDSU courses through regular campus connection registration. There are some NDSU classes you will NOT register for. Please see, “Can I register for *only* VCSU courses?”
What is the difference between NDSU Secondary Education Courses and VCSU Elementary Education Courses?

Secondary education and elementary education courses are completely different. **NDSU Secondary Education courses will not count toward your elementary degree or teaching license.**

PLEASE NOTE! Make sure you do not register for education courses using Campus Connection, as these are SECONDARY education courses.

This is very important as many of the NDSU and VCSU Education classes have the same number and titles. For example: both programs have a course called “Introduction to Education”, and both programs have courses numbered as EDUC 321 & EDUC 322. Regardless of the similar names and numbers, **VCSU AND NDSU CLASSES WILL NOT COUNT FOR EACH OTHER.**

Can I register for only VCSU courses?
Students must be registered for at least one NDSU credit every semester. Students should NOT enroll themselves in HDFS 496 on campus connection. Students will be manually enrolled in HDFS 496 during student teaching semester (and possibly the practicum semester before student teaching if a student is done with all NDSU courses).
COST

Is there an additional cost for the Program?

Once you start your VCSU courses, you will pay the per credit hour tuition and fee rate at each institution depending on how many credits you are taking at each school. Per credit tuition & fee information can be found at:
VCSU Tuition & Fees
NDSU Tuition & Fees

Note: The per-credit hour tuition cost at the two schools is virtually identical. The VCSU per-credit rate is currently lower than NDSU.

What is the “Laptop Fee”?
The technology fee covers VCSU technology infrastructure expenses necessary for students to communicate electronically and share data with faculty, other students, and student administrative support offices. Specifically the technology fee covers the hardware, software, and expertise necessary to provide the following services for all students: a personal web portal with single user name and password, web site services, online learning management and data storage system, email, calendar, web conferencing, server firewall, anti-virus protection, spam filtering, and user technical support. The link: http://technologyservices.vcsu.edu/vp.htm?p=2960 explains the procedures and added cost, if any associated with receiving a laptop computer.

The following services are available to all students. However, the practical accessibility is dependent on the proximity of the student to the service and the applicability to the mode of instruction, i.e. online versus on-campus. Additional services include smart classrooms, wired and wireless local area network access, and mobile computer peripherals, e.g. video cameras, digital still cameras, tripods, microphones, LCD projectors, amplified speakers, and scanners.

More information can be found at:
http://technologyservices.vcsu.edu/vp.htm?p=2958

How much is the “Laptop Fee”?
The laptop fee for full-time students is $499. Typically, NDSU/VCSU collaborative students take two courses (six semester credit hours) during the spring of their sophomore year. During that first semester in the Elementary Education program, which typically includes Intro to Education EDUC 250, students are charged a per credit laptop fee. The fee for six credits amounts to approximately half the $499 full-time fee rate. The “laptop fee” is the only VCSU fee.
Which school will I pay?
You will pay tuition for all four years through the NDSU Business office. NDSU will take care of reimbursing the VCSU portion of your tuition & fees to Valley City State University.

Will my financial aid count at both schools?
Yes, your federal financial aid will work just as it normally does.

However, students should check with the NDSU Student Financial Services as to whether particular scholarships and tuition waivers will “count” for both the VCSU and NDSU tuition and fee charges.

COURSE LOCATION

Do I have to travel to Valley City to take the VCSU courses?

Virtually all VCSU courses are taught on the NDSU campus! The VCSU elementary education faculty does the commuting for you!

There is one course that NDSU students will have to take on the VCSU campus, EDUC 210, Creative Activities-2 Credits. This course is taught in May for one week. Students typically take this course during the summer between their sophomore and junior years. The VCSU faculty has worked very hard to minimize the burden of this on students and have designed the course so that it can be taken in one week. (Students are encouraged to carpool to minimize the commuting expense.)

CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

General Education Requirements
*The VCSU registrar has the final authority to decide on all general education requirements, waivers and exceptions.
Quantitative Reasoning (Math)

Does College Algebra, Math 103 Count for my Quantitative Reasoning General Ed?

If a student has transferred Math 103, College Algebra, from a regionally accredited institution, and it has been approved as for transfer as a quantitative reasoning general education requirement, then he or she can use this course. However, Math 103 taken at NDSU is NOT an approved quantitative reasoning; therefore, it will NOT fulfill this requirement for students entering elementary education.

Note: STAT 330, CSCI 122, 124, 159 are approved quantitative reasoning general education courses at NDSU; however, these courses will NOT count for ND teaching licensure.

Can I use a higher math than 104?

Typically NDSU students take Math 104; however, students can use these other approved quantitative reasoning math courses: Math 146, Applied Calculus, and Math 165, Calculus I.

Science & Technology

Why are there so many specific science and technology requirements?

As an elementary education teacher, you will be teaching children about all areas of science as well as using current computer technology. The ND State Standards and Practices Board require that elementary education students have at least one biological, one physical and one earth science course. Therefore, as indicated in the Curriculum Guide students need the following science & technology courses:

- Biological Science Requirement: One course listed as “BIOL”
- Physical Science Requirement: One course listed as “CHEM or PHYS”
- Earth Science Requirement: One of two NDSU courses work for this area: Either GEOL 105 or GEOL 106
- One Co-requisite Lab (the lab must directly match the course you have taken for one of the three previous categories. Again, you only need one lab.)
- Computer Science (CSCI) 114 or 116
ADDITIONAL CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

Geography 111

Can I take a different Geography class than GEOG 111?
Typically, students must take GEOG 111, 2 credits, through VCSU. In rare circumstances, students can petition to have different courses approved. However, students must petition both the NDSU and VCSU registrar. As stated in the formal agreement, VCSU will make the final decision on all general education exceptions.

HDFS Electives

What can I take for the HDFS Electives?
Students must complete 9 HDFS elective credits (6 credits must be at the 300-400 level) These electives can be any HDFS course that is not already listed on the Curriculum Guide. Directed Electives

ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATIONS & ENDORSEMENTS

What additional certifications, endorsements & teaching credentials can I get to enhance my elementary education degree?

Coaching Certification
One additional Course
HNES 211 Successful Coaching

English Language Learner
Six additional courses. All courses are available online. For more information contact: Daisy Figueroa, daisy.figueroa@vcsu.edu

ENGL 309 Linguistics
ENGL 409 Language and Culture (ENGL 309 is prerequisite)
EDUC 361 Foundations of Bilingual and Multicultural Education
ENGL 363 Assessment of ELL
ENGL 390 Methods of Teaching ELL
ENGL 464 ELL Practicum
ENGL 283 Understanding Cultural Diversity; (Part of the Elementary Education requirements; counts toward the ELL certification).
**Kindergarten Endorsement**

Four additional courses plus 6 weeks of additional student teaching. All courses are available online. For more information contact: Laurel Westby, laurel.a.westby@vcsu.edu

EDUC 310 Intro to Early Childhood  
EDUC 313 Language and Literacy  
EDUC 435 Kindergarten Education and Curriculum  
EDUC 337 Observation and Assessment  
EDUC 485 Student Teaching  
**EDUC 435 requires course time spent in Valley City at VCSU**

**Library Minor-VCSU Online**

Eight additional Courses. All courses are available online. For more information, contact Donna James, donna.james@vcsu.edu

LMIS 250 Intro to Libraries-Fall online  
LMIS 360 Collection Development-Fall online  
LMIS 365 Organization of Information-Spring online  
LMIS 370 Reference-Fall online  
LMIS 430 Administration of the School Library-Spring online  
LMIS 445 Standards for Effective Libraries-Fall online  
LMIS 470 Current Issues in Libraries-Spring online  
EDUC 330 Children’s Literature (*part of the Elementary Education requirements, counts toward Library minor*). Spring at NDSU
**Middle School Endorsement-VCSU Online**

Three (plus) additional courses. Three middle school classes are available online. For more information contact: Al Olson, al.olson@vcsu.edu

- Students must take the three middle school courses.
  - EDUC 305 Middle School Philosophy
  - EDUC 470 Methods of Teaching Middle School
  - EDUC 375 Reading in Content Areas

  *Twenty (20) clock hours of field experience in a North Dakota approved middle school setting, or successful teaching experience in a North Dakota approved middle school setting (documented with a letter from the school principal)*

- AND 24 hours in the content area such as Math, Science, English or Social Studies. Additional requirement information is available at: [http://www.nd.gov/espb/licensure/majorequivforms.html](http://www.nd.gov/espb/licensure/majorequivforms.html)

**Reading Credential-VCSU Online**

Three additional courses. All courses are available online. For more information on contact Kaley Mari, kaley.mari@vcsu.edu

- EDUC 430 Diagnosis and Correction of Reading
- EDUC 431 Reading Practicum
- EDUC 375 Reading in the Content Area
Strategist Special Education Endorsement

Twelve additional courses. All courses are available online. For more information contact Heather Anderson, heather.anderson2@vcsu.edu

*EDUC 240 Educating Exceptional Students
*EDUC 250 Introduction to Education
*EDUC 300 Educational Technology
*EDUC 323 Methods of Reading Instruction
EDUC 340 Learning Disabilities, Emotional Disorders & Intellectual Disorders
EDUC 430 Diagnosis & Correction of Reading Difficulties
SPED 310 Behavior Modification
SPED 333 Assessment of Students with Disabilities
SPED 334 Practicum – Assessment of Students with Disabilities
SPED 380 Collaboration, Consultation, and Transition Planning for Students with Disabilities
SPED 382 Methods and Materials of SLD
SPED 383 Methods and Materials of ED
SPED 384 Methods and Materials of ID
SPED 385 Practicum in SLD
SPED 386 Practicum in ED
SPED 387 Practicum in ID

* Part of the Elementary Education requirements, counts toward Strategist Special Education Endorsement

STEM Science Technology Engineering and Math Certification VCSU Online

Four additional courses. All courses are available online. For more information contact Peder Gjovik, peder.gjovik@vcsu.edu

STEM 342 Building Math
   or
STEM 331 + Lab Building Math or Innovation & Engineering Design

STEM 306 + Lab Inventions and Innovations Technology Education for Children
STEM 310 + Lab Design, Technology and Engineering for Elementary
STEM 355 Curriculum and Methods for Elementary
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