

# 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**

**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 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 – 8 in ND. Other endorsements, credentials, and certifications are available with additional coursework.

### Optional Certifications, Credentials, Endorsements, and Minors

- English Language Learner (ELL)
- Kindergarten Endorsement
- Certificate of Completion in Middle Level
- Certificate of Completion in Reading
- STEM Certification
- Library Media and Information Science Minor
- Strategist Special Education Endorsement

### Out-of-State Licensure

Valley City State University’s nationally accredited education programs have been designed to meet the licensure/certification requirements in North Dakota and prepare students for licensure exams in North Dakota. As a student with a home address outside North Dakota, we want to let you know that each state has their own teacher licensing board, complete with their own specialized requirements. We, here at Valley City State University, are dedicated to exploring your path forward to licensure in your home state, if that is your intention.

## 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 your NDSU Academic Advisor the semester before you begin taking VCSU classes (Fall of sophomore year).

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

Students are typically admitted into Teacher Education after two semesters with VCSU. In *EDUC 250 Introduction to Education*, the VCSU Teacher Education Handbook is reviewed, and enrollees are given an application form to complete and submit to the VCSU School of Education Dean 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 *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 Comp I: ENGL 110, 210, or equivalent.
3. Satisfactory academic performance with a "C" or better in Comp II: ENGL 120, 125, or equivalent.
4. Satisfactory academic performance with a "C" or better in EDUC 250: Introduction to Education.
5. Successful completion of a speech screening test.
6. Positive recommendation from advisor.
7. Positive recommendations from two School of Education and/or content area instructors.
8. Evidence of Basic Skills Requirements in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics.
9. Demonstrate proper dispositions necessary to teach for learning.

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: [Admission to VCSU Teacher Education](#)

## TEACHER LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION EXAMS

### PRAXIS EXAMS

#### Will I have to take the Praxis 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 II](#).

Praxis exams are administered primarily in computer-based formats. Praxis CORE information is available online at: <https://www.ets.org/praxis/site/epp/about/core.html>

Praxis II measures specific teacher education subject knowledge. Students take this test the semester 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 II tests for licensure.

## REGISTERING 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 OFFICIAL transcripts be 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:

- Your VCSU courses are taught in a cohort model, meaning that you stay with your same group of classmates once you start the VCSU classes. Everyone will be placed equally into two cohorts.
- You will register using a “**Collaborative Request**” form in the “eForms” tile on Campus Connection.
  - Dual degree students will be supported in course registration through group advising.

## Step Four: Register for NDSU Classes:

- Students will register for their NDSU courses through regular campus connection registration BEFORE they register for the 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 EDUC 321 & EDUC 322. Regardless of the similar names and numbers,

**VCSU AND NDSU EDUCATION 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 Eligibility Credit on campus connection. Students will be manually enrolled in HDFS 496 during the 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.**

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Students enrolling in the VCSU Elementary Education program will be required to pay a technology fee for specific courses applicable to the elementary education program. All dual degree teacher candidates will be issued a VCSU iPad to support their preparation in the teacher education program.

VCSU laptop computers are available on a full-time basis to part-time students and campus affiliates located in the U.S.A. for an extra charge on a first come, first served, as available basis.

### Which school will I pay tuition to?

You will pay tuition for all four years through the NDSU Business Office (located on Campus Connection). 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 Financial Aid 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?

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

## 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 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.

### 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 *or* STEM Ed 160”
- 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 Transportation & Logistics (TL) 116



## ADDITIONAL CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

### Geography 111

#### Can I take a different Geography class than GEOG 111?

Typically, students must take GEOG 111, 3 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](#).

## ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATIONS & ENDORSEMENTS

### Coaching Certification

- HNES 211 Successful Coaching

### English Language Learner

Six additional courses. All courses are available online. For more information contact: Dr. Abigail Bremer (email: [abigail.bremer@vcsu.edu](mailto:abigail.bremer@vcsu.edu))

### Course Requirements

- ENGL 309 Linguistics (3 credits)
- ENGL 409 Language and Culture (ENGL 309 is prerequisite) (3 credits)
- EDUC 361 Foundations of Bilingual and Multicultural Education (2 credits)
- ENGL 363 Assessment of ELL (2 credits)
- ENGL 390 Methods of Teaching ELL (2 credits)
- ENGL 464 ELL Practicum (2 credits)
- \*EDUC 283 Understanding Cultural Diversity (3 credits)

*\* Part of the Elementary Education requirements counts toward English Language Learner Endorsement*

### Kindergarten Endorsement- VCSU Online

Four additional courses plus 6 weeks of additional student teaching. All courses are available online. For more information contact: Dr. Allen Burgad (email: [allen.a.burgad@vcsu.edu](mailto:allen.a.burgad@vcsu.edu))

### **Course Requirements**

- EDUC 310 Intro to Early Childhood (3 credits)
- EDUC 313 Language and Literacy (2 credits)
- EDUC 435 Kindergarten Education and Curriculum (4 credits)
- EDUC 337 Observation and Assessment (3 credits)
- EDUC 485 Kindergarten Student Teaching (5 credits)

### **Library Media and Information Science Minor- VCSU Online**

Eight additional Courses. All courses are available online. For more information, contact Dr. Jim Boe, (email: [jim.boe@vcsu.edu](mailto:jim.boe@vcsu.edu))

### **Course Requirements**

- 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 Spring at NDSU

*\* Part of the Elementary Education requirements counts toward the Library Minor*

### **Certificate of Completion in Middle Level - VCSU Online**

Three (plus) additional courses. Three middle school classes are available online. For more information contact: David Bass (email: [dave.bass@vcsu.edu](mailto:dave.bass@vcsu.edu))

#### **Students must take the three middle school courses:**

- EDUC 305 Middle School Philosophy (3 credits)
- EDUC 470 Methods of Teaching Middle School (3 credits)
- EDUC 375 Reading in Content Areas (2 credits)

*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)*

- 24 hours in the content area such as Math, Science, English, or Social Studies. Additional requirement information is available at: <https://www.nd.gov/espb/forms/middle-school-forms>

## Certificate of Completion in Reading - VCSU Online

Three additional courses. All courses are available online. For more information on contact Angie Zerface (email: [angela.zerface@vcsu.edu](mailto:angela.zerface@vcsu.edu))

### Course Requirements

- EDUC 430 Diagnosis and Correction of Reading (3 credits)
- EDUC 431 Reading Practicum (2 credits)
- EDUC 375 Reading in the Content Area (2 credits)

## MN LICENSURE:

EDUC 430 Diagnosis and Correction of Reading (3 credits) and EDUC 431 Reading Practicum (2 credits-including a 60-hour field experience)

- EDUC 430 Diagnosis and Correction of Reading (3 credits)
- EDUC 431 Reading Practicum (2 credits-including a 60-hour field experience).

EDUC 430 and EDUC 431 are **not required** for VCSU graduation or ND licensure. The courses help towards Minnesota licensure in fulfillment of reading assessment course and a field experience focused on teaching reading. An Elementary Education major who adds one more class, EDUC 375, meets the expectation for a Certificate of Completion in Reading.

## Strategist Special Education Endorsement – VCSU Online

Twelve additional courses. All courses are available online. For more information contact Heather Peschel (email: [heather.peschel@vcsu.edu](mailto:heather.peschel@vcsu.edu))

### Course Requirements

EDUC 430 Diagnosis & Correction of Reading Difficulties (3 credits)

SPED 310 Behavior Modification (3 credits)

SPED 333 Assessment of Students with Disabilities (3 credits)

SPED 340 Learning Disabilities, Emotional Disorders & Intellectual Disorders (2 credits)

SPED 380 Collaboration, Consultation, and Transition Planning for Students with Disabilities (3 credits)

SPED 382 Methods and Materials of SLD (2 credits)

SPED 383 Methods and Materials of ED (2 credits)

SPED 384 Methods and Materials of ID (2 credits)

SPED 486 Special Education Student Teaching in SLD, ED, ID, and Assessment (5 credits)

## STEM Science Technology Engineering and Math Certification - VCSU Online

Four additional courses. All courses are available online. For more information contact Elisa Krumwiede (email: [elisa.krumwiede@vcsu.edu](mailto:elisa.krumwiede@vcsu.edu))

### Course Requirements

- STEM 355 Curriculum and Methods for Elementary (3 credits) - Required
- Select 9-10 hours from the following:
  - STEM 306 - Inventions and Innovations Technology Education for Children (3 credits)
  - STEM 310 - Design, Technology and Engineering for Elementary (3 credits)
  - STEM 342 Building Math (3 credits)
  - STEM 160 Integrative Physical Science for Elementary (4 credits)

## WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION

### Dr. Allen Burgad

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