

HDFS

Elementary Education

Dual Degree

Frequently Asked Questions

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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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 of the commuting! With the exception of a *one-week summer course* (EDUC 210) in May of your sophomore or junior year, VCSU teaches the courses for the major on the NDSU campus. [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 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
- 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 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 Elementary 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.
 1. *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://catalog.vcsu.edu/undergraduate-catalog/programs/majors/elementary-education/>

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 the exams?

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. Praxis CORE 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 measures reading, writing and math skills. Students are required to take the Praxis CORE exam either before or during the semester enrolled in 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>

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: Complete Background Check

- A background check is required prior to beginning the Elementary Education Program. The background check must be completed through the Educational Standards and Practices Board (ESPB).
- Background checks completed through previous jobs are not acceptable.
- The electronic forms can be obtained from the NDSU/VCSU Elementary Education Liaison.
- Fingerprinting can be completed through the police station at NDSU

Step Four: Register for NDSU Classes before VCSU Classes

Students will register for their NDSU courses through regular campus connection registration. VCSU will complete group advising and assist students in registering for VCSU courses through the collaborate process.

Step Five: Register for VCSU Classes:

- To register for the VCSU classes, students must fill out the [Collaborative Course Request \(VCSU Elem. Ed. via NDSU\)](#)
- This form is found on the NDSU Registration and Records Site under: "FORMS"
<http://www.ndsu.edu/registrar/forms/>

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](#) Click on Net Price Calculator to determine per tuition fee
[NDSU Tuition & Fees](#)

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Students enrolling in the VCSU elementary education program at NDSU are required to purchase an iPad the semester they begin the program.

- iPad or iPad Pro (your iPad must support a pencil)
- iPad pencil

TECHNOLOGY FEES

NDSU students enrolled in VCSU elementary education courses will be required to pay technology fees equivalent to the NDSU technology fee. These fees will be capped at 12 credits. Students will be expected to individually purchase an iPad tablet with pencil technology prior to the start of their first VCSU education course.

VCSU will provide iPad management software, selected classroom technology, and other IT equipment and services to support classroom learning for elementary teacher candidates.

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. Consult the following document related to eligibility, costs and procedures: <https://onestop.vcsu.edu/support/solutions/articles/10000026708>

Which school will I pay tuition to?

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 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 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: 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” **or**
 - Students may take STEM ED 160, Integrated Physical Science for Elementary Teachers from VCSU.
- 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, 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](#). 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 - VCSU Online

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

Course Requirements:

- ENGL 309 Linguistics – Summer (3 credits)
- ENGL 409 Language and Culture – Fall (ENGL 309 is prerequisite) (3 credits)
- EDUC 361 Foundations of Bilingual and Multicultural Education (2 credits)
- ENGL 363 Assessment of ELL – Fall (2 credits)
- ENGL 390 Methods of Teaching ELL – Spring (2 credits)
- ENGL 464 ELL Practicum – Fall, Spring (2 credits)
- ENGL 283 Understanding Cultural Diversity (3 credits); (Part of the Elementary Education requirements; counts toward the ELL certification).

Kindergarten Endorsement - VCSU Online

Four additional courses plus 6 weeks of additional student teaching. All courses are available online. For more information contact: Dr. Sheri Okland, sheri.l.okland@vcsu.edu

Course Requirements:

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

Library Minor-VCSU Online

Eight additional Courses. All courses are available online. For more information, contact Dr. Jim Boe, jim.boe@vcsu.edu

Course Requirements:

- LMIS 250 Intro to Libraries – Fall (3 credits)
- LMIS 360 Collection Development – Fall (3 credits)
- LMIS 365 Organization of Information – Spring (3 credits)
- LMIS 370 Reference – Fall (3 credits)
- LMIS 430 Administration of the School Library – Spring (3 credits)
- LMIS 445 Standards for Effective Libraries – Fall (3 credits)
- LMIS 470 Current Issues in Libraries – Spring (3 credits)
- EDUC 330 Children's Literature (*part of the Elementary Education requirements, counts toward 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: Dr. Alan Olson, al.olson@vcsu.edu

Course Requirements:

- EDUC 305 Middle School Philosophy – Summer (3 credits)
- EDUC 470 Methods of Teaching Middle School – Summer (3 credits)
- EDUC 375 Reading in Content Areas – Fall, Spring (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>

STEM Science Technology Engineering and Math Certification - VCSU Online

Four additional courses. All courses are available online. For more information contact Elisa Krumwiede, elisa.krumwiede@vcsu.edu

Course Requirements:

- STEM 342 Building Math – Summer (3 credits)
 - or
- STEM 331 + Lab Building Math or Innovation & Engineering Design
- STEM 306 +306L (Lab) Inventions and Innovations Technology Education for Children – Fall (3 credits)
- STEM 310 + 310L (Lab) Design, Technology and Engineering for Elementary – Summer (3 credits)
- STEM 355 Curriculum and Methods for Elementary – Spring (3 credits)

Title I Reading and Math Credential -VCSU Online

Three additional courses. All courses are available online. For more information on contact Yvonne Cannon, yvonne.cannon@vcsu.edu

Course Requirements:

- EDUC 430 Diagnosis and Correction of Reading – Fall (3 credits)
- EDUC 431 Reading Practicum – Fall (2 credits)
- EDUC 375 Reading in the Content Area – Fall, Spring, Summer (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 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.

VCSU students Title I Math Credential is met through the requirements of the program.

Strategist Special Education Endorsement – VCSU Online

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

Course Requirements:

- *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 – Fall (2 credits)
- EDUC 430 Diagnosis & Correction of Reading Difficulties – Fall (3 credits)
- SPED 310 Behavior Modification – Spring (3 credits)
- SPED 333 Assessment of Students with Disabilities – Spring (3 credits)
- SPED 380 Collaboration, Consultation, and Transition Planning for Students with Disabilities – Fall, Summer (3 credits)
- SPED 382 Methods and Materials of SLD – Spring (2 credits)
- SPED 383 Methods and Materials of ED – Spring (2 credits)
- SPED 384 Methods and Materials of ID – Spring (2 credits)
- SPED 486 – (5) Student Teaching Experience in SLD, ED, and ID (6 weeks)

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

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Heather Anderson, M.Ed. Assistant Professor heather.anderson2@vcsu.edu	Angie Saxlund Assistant Professor ASAXLUND@west-fargo.k12.nd.us	Kaley Mari, M.Ed. Assistant Professor kaley.mari@vcsu.edu

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