



[Stephen F. Austin State University](#)  
[James I. Perkins College of Education](#)  
[Department of Education Studies](#)  
[Standard Master's in Elementary Education](#)

## Graduate Program Handbook

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## Department of Education Studies

The Department of Education Studies is located at the Janice A. Pattillo Early Childhood Research Center at 2428 Raguet Street in Nacogdoches Texas. The Department of Education Studies is within the James I. Perkins College of Education (PCOE).

### Vision

The Department of Education Studies will be a leader in preparing professionals to have a positive impact on advocacy, teaching, and learning in a diverse and evolving world.

### Mission

The Department of Education Studies prepares professionals to become reflective and informed practitioners, social justice advocates, and transformational leaders in their professional fields and in the larger society. To that end, we demonstrate and foster in one another creativity, critical insight, empathy, intellectual courage, and civic engagement, everlasting grounds for lifelong inquiry, and the foundations for democratic citizenship.

Graduate course offerings are designed to prepare early childhood, elementary, middle school, high school, and special education teachers for a variety of positions. Undergraduate preparation is extended and enriched through courses that provide the opportunity to review current research in relevant fields, to conduct research in appropriate areas, to develop activities and curriculum materials, and to study emerging trends in early childhood development; elementary, middle, and high school education; and special education.



## Standard Master's in Elementary Education

The Standard M.Ed. in Elementary Education is a program structured to assist educators in constructing knowledge and developing skills necessary to become leaders for curriculum and instruction within their schools and communities. The program consists of 36 graduate credit hours. This program is catered to in-service educators, particularly those teaching in grades one through eight.

Graduates with a Master of Education become elementary education professionals, researchers, school district specialists, master classroom teachers, consultants, and professional development providers. Some serve as adjunct faculty at junior colleges and universities, and others go on to complete a doctoral degree.

### Program Learning Outcomes

Every course within the program utilizes a set of objectives meant to unify the entire program. These objectives, called Program Learning Outcomes, or PLOs, will be consistent within each course. The assessment of each PLO in each course is done through Student Learning Outcomes, SLOs, that are individualized per course. The following PLOs guide each course within the program.

**PLO 1** Candidates use their understanding of child growth and development, individual differences, and diverse families, cultures, and communities to plan and implement inclusive learning environments that provide each child with equitable access to high quality learning experiences that engage and create learning opportunities for them to meet high standards. They work collaboratively with families to gain a holistic perspective on children's strengths and needs and how to motivate their learning.

**PLO 2** Candidates demonstrate and apply understandings of major concepts, skills, and practices, as they interpret disciplinary curricular standards and related expectations within and across literacy, mathematics, science, and social studies.

**PLO 3** Candidates assess students, plan instruction and design classroom contexts for learning. Candidates use formative and summative assessment to monitor students' learning and guide instruction. Candidates plan learning activities to promote a full range of competencies for each student. They differentiate instructional materials and activities to address learners' diversity. Candidates foster engagement in learning by establishing and maintaining social norms for classrooms. They build interpersonal relationships with students that generate motivation and promote students social and emotional development.

**PLO 4** Candidates make informed decisions about instruction guided by knowledge of children and assessment of children's learning that result in the use of a variety of effective instructional practices that employ print, and digital appropriate resources. Instruction is delivered using a cohesive sequence of lessons and employing effective

instructional practices. Candidates use explicit instruction and effective feedback as appropriate and use whole class discussions to support and enhance children's learning. Candidates use flexible grouping arrangements, including small group and individual instruction to support effective instruction and improved learning for every child.

**PLO 5** Candidates promote learning and development of every child through participation in collaborative learning environments, reflective self-study and professional learning, and involvement in their professional community.

## Program Admission Requirements

To be considered for admission to the Master's in Elementary Education program, applicants must:

- Hold a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution of higher education;
- Have a GPA of at least 2.5; and
- Meet minimum admission requirements of the Graduate School at Stephen F. Austin State University (see [General Requirements for Admission](#)).
- Applicants **are not required** to take or submit scores from the Graduate Record Exam (GRE).

Candidates that have not already obtained a teaching certification cannot gain certification through this program, however, there are optional pathways that can be explored to obtain your master's degree and teaching certification. Contact [montgomems@sfasu.edu](mailto:montgomems@sfasu.edu) for options or with questions.

## Application Process

The following steps should be followed by an interested applicant seeking admission:

- Apply for admission to graduate school through <https://goapplytexas.org/> (select Standard Master's in Elementary Education) by November 15<sup>th</sup> for Spring enrollment, May 1<sup>st</sup> for Summer I enrollment, June 1<sup>st</sup> for Summer II enrollment, and July 15<sup>th</sup> for Fall enrollment. Please email the Program Coordinator regarding possible late applications;
- Submit all transcripts and other required documentation to the [Graduate School](#);
- Once your application file is complete, your application will be routed to the Department of Education Studies for further review with a Notice of Admission (NOA) form to be completed;
- The Program Coordinator will review and make a decision, which may include Clear Admission, Probationary Admission, Provisional Admission, Post-baccalaureate Admission, or Not Admitted;
- The Program Coordinator will return the NOA to the Graduate School;
- Upon acceptance, the Program Coordinator will initiate the process for advising and registering for classes.

## Advising

The Program Coordinator serves as the advisor for the Standard Master's in Elementary Education. You should seek advising in April for Summer, July for Fall sessions and in November for the Spring semester. Please email the Program Coordinator with the number of courses/credit hours you desire to take for each term.

## Required Coursework

The following courses are required of the Standard Elementary Master's program. ELED 5320 and ELED 5321 must be taken in order and ELED 5350 should be taken toward the end of the program since it is the capstone course.

STANDARD ELEMENTARY MASTER'S DEGREE	
Required Course List	
*This is for informational purposes only. Courses may change based on approved curriculum changes. This is not a required order of completion*	
Title & Course Description	
<b>Required CORE Courses *all 18 hours must be taken in this section*</b>	
<b>ELED 5320 Elementary STEM Teaching I</b> (3 credit hours)	An introduction to science, technology, engineering and mathematics curriculum and instruction in the EC-8 classroom. The course is designed to assist teachers in exploring the current trends, practices, research, development and use of hands-on, inquiry-based, integrated STEM activities in EC-8 classrooms.
<b>ELED 5321 Elementary STEM Teaching II</b> (3 credit hours)	An advanced examination of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics curriculum and instruction in the EC-8 classroom. The course is designed to assist teachers in exploring the current trends, practices, research, development, and use of hands-on, inquiry-based, integrated STEM activities in EC-8 classroom and includes programmatic application.
<b>ELED 5315 Social Studies in the Elementary School Advanced</b> (3 credit hours)	Current trends, practices and research pertaining to the teaching of social studies in the elementary school.
<b>ELED 5310 Standards-Based Assessment</b> (3 credit hours)	Examination of teaching and assessment strategies that support a community of learners and facilitate learning in the elementary classroom.
<b>ELED 5350 Research and Analysis of Teaching</b> (3 credit hours)	Theory, practice and research in methods and techniques of instruction to meet the learner's needs, interests, and abilities of students.
<b>READ 5302 Reading Methods for Middle Child</b> (3 credit hours)	Focus on literacy instruction for upper-level readers.
<b>Required SUPPORT Courses *all 6 hours must be taken in this section*</b>	
<b>ELED 5305 Elementary School Child Advanced</b> (3 credit hours)	Presents the factors in a learner's intellectual, psychological, emotional, social, and physical development and their implications for the elementary teacher.
<b>READ 5308 Advanced Studies in Early Literacy of Young Child</b> (3 credit hours)	An examination of early literacy of young children, issues, theories, and content related to early literacy, assessment and explicit reading instruction.
<b>Required ELECTIVE Courses</b>	
<b>*You may select your 12 hours from 500 level courses in ECED, ELED, MLGE, or READ*</b>	

## Course Length & Modality

Standard Elementary Master courses are all offered completely online in an asynchronous modality. All required courses, except one, are 8-weeks in length for Fall and Spring, and 6-weeks in length during Summer sessions. Courses are offered in two terms each semester (Fall 1 and 2; Spring 1 and 2; and Summer 1 & 2). ELED 5350 is a research-based course and serves as the capstone course for the Standard Elementary Education Master's degree. Because of the research nature of this course, it is only offered in 16-week long semesters. It is still offered completely online in an asynchronous modality.

## Probation, Suspension, and Reinstatement

Throughout the program, candidates are expected to maintain a 3.0 overall GPA. Candidates that drop below a 3.0 will be placed on academic probation and those on probationary admission will be placed on suspension. A candidate on probation must restore a GPA 3.0 or greater or may be placed on suspension. Any candidate placed on suspension is denied the continuation of the academic program and is not allowed to register for courses. Please contact the Program Coordinator to further discuss specific situations.

## Assessments

The Standard Elementary Education Master's Program collects assessment information throughout the program and within the following courses via LiveText:

ELED 5320	Science Lesson with Plan
ELED 5321	Mathematics Lesson with Plan
ELED 5315	Social Studies Lesson with Plan
ELED 5305	Personal Theory Assignment
ELED 5350	Candidate Work Sample/Action Research Project

## Costs and Financial Aid

To determine the expected costs of attendance, please visit the Tuition and Fee Plans Rate Tables provided by the institution at following link:

[https://www.sfasu.edu/controller/businessoffice/students/rate\\_tables.asp](https://www.sfasu.edu/controller/businessoffice/students/rate_tables.asp)

To learn more about your financial aid options, please visit the Financial Aid website for more information: <http://www.sfasu.edu/admissions-and-aid/financial-aid/types-of-aid>

## Graduation

At the beginning of the semester previous to your final semester in the program, please review the process for graduation and submit your application for graduation. Information can be found at: <http://www.sfasu.edu/registrar/455.asp>



## APPENDIX A: Graduate Degree Plan

Stephen F. Austin State University  
James I. Perkins College of Education

## Graduate Degree Plan

The advisor, in consultation with the student, will file a degree plan after all undergraduate deficiencies and required standardized tests are completed and the student has been fully admitted to the program. The degree plan must be aligned with the appropriate catalog term required for the student of record, and include only university approved curriculum. Any desired changes to a degree plan, which deviate from approved curriculum, must include a "petition to change degree plan" form. Candidates for graduate degrees must complete the comprehensive exams or the program's equivalent before graduation. An advisor should not complete a Degree Plan form while the student is under provisional admission, on probation or has a GPA of less than 3.00.

This form will be submitted to the Academic Unit Head and, after approval, will be emailed to [coeegrad@sfasu.edu](mailto:coeegrad@sfasu.edu) for review and approval by the College of Education Graduate Studies Coordinator and Dean. After final approval, the Program Coordinator must provide a final copy to the student.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate Degree for: M.Ed. Major/Program: Elementary Education Catalog: Fall 2020

Total Hours for Degree: 36 Concentration: Standard Elementary Minor: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Transfer Courses not to exceed 12 hours. Courses included must be taken within 6 years of graduation date.**

List courses required to be completed for the degree. The distribution of courses must comply with the requirements of the Graduate Bulletin under which the student intends to graduate. Any desired changes to a degree plan, which deviate from approved curriculum, must include a "petition to change degree plan" form.

MAJOR COURSES	Course Emphasis/Certification:
<p>ENGL 101: English Composition I</p> <p>ENGL 102: English Composition II</p> <p>ENGL 103: English Composition III</p> <p>ENGL 104: English Composition IV</p> <p>ENGL 105: English Composition V</p> <p>ENGL 106: English Composition VI</p> <p>ENGL 107: English Composition VII</p> <p>ENGL 108: English Composition VIII</p> <p>ENGL 109: English Composition IX</p> <p>ENGL 110: English Composition X</p> <p>ENGL 111: English Composition XI</p> <p>ENGL 112: English Composition XII</p> <p>ENGL 113: English Composition XIII</p> <p>ENGL 114: English Composition XIV</p> <p>ENGL 115: English Composition XV</p> <p>ENGL 116: English Composition XVI</p> <p>ENGL 117: English Composition XVII</p> <p>ENGL 118: English Composition XVIII</p> <p>ENGL 119: English Composition XIX</p> <p>ENGL 120: English Composition XX</p>	<p>ENGL 101: English Composition I</p> <p>ENGL 102: English Composition II</p> <p>ENGL 103: English Composition III</p> <p>ENGL 104: English Composition IV</p> <p>ENGL 105: English Composition V</p> <p>ENGL 106: English Composition VI</p> <p>ENGL 107: English Composition VII</p> <p>ENGL 108: English Composition VIII</p> <p>ENGL 109: English Composition IX</p> <p>ENGL 110: English Composition X</p> <p>ENGL 111: English Composition XI</p> <p>ENGL 112: English Composition XII</p> <p>ENGL 113: English Composition XIII</p> <p>ENGL 114: English Composition XIV</p> <p>ENGL 115: English Composition XV</p> <p>ENGL 116: English Composition XVI</p> <p>ENGL 117: English Composition XVII</p> <p>ENGL 118: English Composition XVIII</p> <p>ENGL 119: English Composition XIX</p> <p>ENGL 120: English Composition XX</p>

[illegible]

### CONCENTRATION/ELECTIVES

Course #	Course Title	CH
	Elective	3
	Elective	3
	Elective	3
	Elective	3

**Notes:**

ELED 5350 is grad comp capstone: must complete with a "B" or better.

Electives: 12 hrs from ANY graduate ECED, ELED, MLGE, READ, or SEED course that is offered that semester.

**\*Student is responsible to submit a Graduation Application by required deadline. Degree will not be conferred without application.**

**REQUIRED APPROVALS:**

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<b>Program Coordinator</b>	<b>Date</b>
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<b>Academic Unit Head</b>	<b>Date</b>
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<b>Graduate Student</b>	<b>Date</b>
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<b>Dean</b>	<b>Date</b>
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PCOE Graduate Studies Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Updated April 2020