

# Teacher Education



Teachers instruct students from kindergarten through high school in a variety of subject areas. They help students learn and develop both intellectually and socially. Teachers plan lessons and curriculum, present information to students, and assess student learning through exams. Elementary education teachers usually teach a broad range of subjects including basics like math, language, science, and social science. Secondary education teachers usually focus on a particular subject area and give students more in-depth information. State certification is required for all public school teachers, and they need to continually keep up with developments in education.

The [Center for Teacher Education](#) at Colorado Mesa University works closely with the school districts throughout western Colorado and offers several traditional teaching degrees. The teaching program uses cutting-edge technology to educate teachers in curriculum, state standards, classroom management, and education research. Colorado Mesa also offers intensive programs for candidates who already hold a Bachelor's degree and continuing education opportunities for current teachers and administrators. Students must complete an application process and meet admission requirements to be accepted into any teaching program. Campus [clubs and organizations](#) also offer the opportunity to work closer with faculty, other students, and professionals from various fields in settings beyond the classroom.

[Elementary Education](#) majors are prepared to teach grades K-6 and have the opportunity to choose a concentration area in English, Mathematics, or Social Science. Students take entry-level courses in a number of different subjects to obtain knowledge in the many areas they will be teaching and additional courses in their specific content area. They also take more than 30 credit hours of education coursework that includes 840 hours of field experience in classrooms.

[Secondary Education](#) majors at Colorado Mesa University are prepared to teach grades 7-12 in one of the following subjects: English, History, Mathematics, Spanish, Biology, or Geology. Students take more than 75 credit hours of general education and content area coursework to gain expertise in their field. In addition, students take 29 credit hours of education coursework, including 800 field experience hours in classrooms and topics like pedagogy, assessment, and teaching methods.

[K-12 Education](#) degrees are offered in Art, Music, and Kinesiology. These majors take more than 75 credit hours of general education and content area coursework along with at least 20 credit hours of education coursework. Since these majors are able to teach all grade levels, their 840 field experience hours in the classroom will include placements in both elementary and secondary classrooms and their coursework covers teaching methods for both levels.

### A person in this career field may:

- Plan lessons with clear learning objectives that follow curriculum requirements and prepare materials for classroom activities
- Oversee classroom management and establish and enforce rules and administrative policies
- Discuss students' academic progress, behavior, and development with parents/guardians and school staff
- Evaluate students, identify potential issues like learning disabilities or behavior problems, and make appropriate referrals
- Supervise extracurricular clubs or coach athletic teams
- Attend conferences or workshops to continually learn and improve teaching methods
- Administer standardized tests to students
- Teach students through lectures, discussions, hands-on activities, and demonstrations
- Utilize technology to promote learning, record grades, and create presentations
- Develop remedial coursework or adapt teaching methods and materials to meet student needs

### Major Skills & Characteristics

- Technology skills
- Ability to teach/explain ideas clearly
- Writing and interpersonal communication
- Ability to teach students with different learning levels and summarize ideas
- Patient and trustworthy
- Creativity & flexibility
- Ability to present information
- Decision making skills
- Organization and planning ability
- Ability to motivate students
- Dealing with parents or guardians
- Team player
- Assertiveness
- Ability to work with diverse populations
- Dependable

### Organizations That Commonly Employ Teacher Education Majors

- Boards of Education
- Camps
- Colleges & Universities
- Community Organizations
- Day Care Centers
- Educational Publishers
- Government Agencies
- Libraries
- Nonprofit Organizations
- Public & Private Schools

### Related Careers

- Adult Education Teacher
- Coach
- Curriculum Specialist
- Day Care Administrator
- Educational Administrator
- Educational Sales Rep
- Educational Researcher
- Guidance Counselor
- Librarian
- Literacy Coordinator
- Media Center Specialist
- Principal
- Resource Teacher
- Special Education Teacher
- Speech Pathologist
- Superintendent
- Teacher
- Training Specialist
- Tutor
- Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

**Note:** Some of the occupations listed above may require additional education, experience, or training beyond a Bachelor's Degree. To research these occupations use the Career Research Resources links below.

## Career Research Resources:

Use these sites to research information about specific occupations such as nature of the work, training or qualifications, employment or job outlook, projections, earnings and wages.

### Occupational Outlook Handbook: [http://www.bls.gov/oco/ooh\\_index.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oco/ooh_index.htm)

The Bureau of Labor Statistics

- Use the A-Z index to select the occupation you are researching, such as:
  - **Elementary School Teachers** at <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/education-training-and-library/kindergarten-and-elementary-school-teachers.htm>
  - **Middle School Teachers** at <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/education-training-and-library/middle-school-teachers.htm>
  - **High School Teachers** at <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/education-training-and-library/high-school-teachers.htm>

### O\*NET-Online: <http://www.onetonline.org>

The U.S. Department of Labor

- In the occupational search box type in key words, job titles, or occupational codes to research various careers.

### My Future.com: <http://www.myfuture.com>

The Department of Defense

- This site compiles information from departments of [Commerce](#), [Education](#) and [Labor](#).

## Organizations and Associations Links

- National Education Association: [www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org)
- Colorado Education Association: [www.coloradoea.org](http://www.coloradoea.org)
- American Federation of Teachers: [www.aft.org](http://www.aft.org)
- U.S. Department of Education: [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)
- Colorado Department of Education: [www.cde.state.co.us](http://www.cde.state.co.us)
- American Educational Research Association: [www.aera.net](http://www.aera.net)
- National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education: [www.ncate.org](http://www.ncate.org)
- National Council on Teacher Quality: [www.nctq.org](http://www.nctq.org)
- Council for Exceptional Children: [www.cec.sped.org](http://www.cec.sped.org)

## Job Listings/Job Search Sites:

- Jobs in Education: <http://jobsearch.educationamerica.net>
- Education World: [www.educationworld.com](http://www.educationworld.com)
- K12 Jobspot: <http://k12jobspot.com>
- U.S. Department of State Office of Overseas Schools: [www.state.gov/m/a/os/index.htm](http://www.state.gov/m/a/os/index.htm)
- Profiles of US Public Schools: [www.publicschoolreview.com](http://www.publicschoolreview.com)
- Local School District Employment Opportunities: [www.mesa.k12.co.us/hr/EmploymentOpportunities.cfm](http://www.mesa.k12.co.us/hr/EmploymentOpportunities.cfm)
- Teaching Jobs Abroad: [www.goabroad.com/teach-abroad](http://www.goabroad.com/teach-abroad)
- Action Without Borders: [www.idealists.org](http://www.idealists.org)
- Teachers.net: <http://jobs.teachers.net>