Undergraduate Education

Western’s Education Department offers cutting-edge ideas in teaching, with a dynamic curriculum, innovative instructional strategies and a dedicated faculty focused on student needs.

What Is the Western Difference?

You’ll teach as you learn – working in schools with children, teachers, administrators and parents. This model, unlike traditional student teaching, immerses Western students in a yearlong teaching experience that allows them to apply what they’ve learned, even as they continue learning. Undergraduate students spend three years studying their content area and their fourth year student teaching.

During that year, students benefit from a network of support, receiving continuous feedback from their mentor teacher, regional coordinator and instructor. Because your fourth-year courses are online, you decide where you want to teach during your residency.

Western’s Education department stays on top of changing state and national standards, ensuring Western graduates know how they will be evaluated on the job.

We encourage students to get involved outside the classroom by attending state and national conferences, engaging in local policy and reform discussions, and serving on education-related committees.

FACTS

Online courses allow fourth-year students flexibility to decide where to complete their full-year, in-school residency.

Western’s coursework continuously aligns with state and national quality standards.

93 percent of bachelor’s degree candidates were employed within a year of graduation during 2013-2014.

Western can help you find out-of-state placement.

95 percent of undergraduate students said the program met or exceeded their expectations in 2013-2014.

Eight Education scholarships – on top of university financial aid – totaling $9,625, were awarded in 2014-2015.

More Information: 800.876.5309 | admissions@western.edu western.edu
What Will I Learn?

Western Education trains you to become an effective teacher, with a variety of strategies, tools, and skills to help connect with your students and raise achievement.

Western students employ a variety of best practices, from explicit instruction to active engagement, differentiation and research-based strategies. The faculty encourages collaboration and relationship building, both in and outside the classroom.

What Can I Do With My Degree?

Many of our graduates find jobs in the schools where they intern and take positions as:

- K-12 teachers.
- Special education teachers.
- Coaches.
- Tutors.
- Teachers in international schools.
- Math specialists.
- Reading specialists.
- Online teachers.
- Outdoor educators.
- Literacy coaches.
- Induction/mentor coordinators.
- Professional development coordinators and trainers.
- Faculty in higher education.

In addition, many Western Education alumni continue on to graduate school, completing programs in areas such as: special education, school counseling, curriculum and instruction, teacher leadership, and administration.

Meet Kevin Donaldson

Kevin Donaldson says the Gunnison Valley’s outdoor offerings and small campus led him to Western.

“I didn’t want to be some number,” says Donaldson, who hails from Arvada, Colo. “I wanted to be Kevin!”

Western’s Biology and Recreation & Outdoor Education programs also caught his attention. He plans to teach secondary-school science.

What sets apart Western’s Education program, Donaldson says, is the full year of student teaching and getting to choose where you teach during that time.

He also cites the personalized attention from Western faculty: “My professors know exactly where I am in regards to my development and know how to challenge me to make me a better educator.”

And then there are “the amazing friendships I have made that I’m sure will last a lifetime.”