The B.A. in elementary education program at Saint Louis University aims to develop reflective practitioners educated in the liberal tradition and committed to service, inquiry and value-centered teaching. It also seeks to prepare future teachers who have leadership qualities including risk-taking, civic responsibility and ethical character.

The elementary education program is for students who are curious, creative and well-organized. Students learn communication skills and special techniques specific to learners in first–sixth grade. Elementary education professionals are expected to have knowledge about all subjects.

To be accepted into the teacher certification program, students must have: a 2.75 cumulative GPA, a 3.0 GPA in professional education and in their content area, a passing score in MoGEA and completed the MEP. In addition, a student must pass the content area test in the chosen field, complete a program portfolio and complete the MoPTA.

The department has instituted the “block” concept into the teacher education program. The first block addresses issues related to classroom observation, studying learning theory and examining schools as a social system, and human growth and development. Block two examines diversity, learning and teaching styles, and exceptionality. The remaining blocks include methods of teaching various subject matter areas and levels and developing learning activities. The culmination of the program is the professional semester block. During this semester the student will spend the greatest amount of time teaching in a public or private school setting.
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Freshman: All applications are thoroughly and carefully reviewed. Solid academic performance in college preparatory course work is a primary criterion in reviewing a freshman applicant’s file. College admission test scores (ACT or SAT) are used as an additional indicator of the student's ability to meet the University's academic requirements and to qualify the student for certain University scholarship programs. To be considered for admission to any Saint Louis University undergraduate program, the applicant must be approaching graduation from an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the General Education Development (GED) test.

Transfer: Applicants must be a graduate of an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the GED. An official high school transcript and official test scores are required only of those students who have attempted fewer than 24 transferable semester hours (or 30 quarter hours) of college credit. Those having completed 24 hours or more of college credit need only submit a transcript from previously attended college(s). In reviewing a transfer applicant's file, the office of admission holistically examines the student's academic performance in college-level coursework as an indicator of the student's ability to meet the academic rigors of Saint Louis University.

WHY CHOOSE THIS PROGRAM?

+ Students enter into a tight-knit community of faculty and peers committed to innovative learning, diversity and the intellectual ideas of the Jesuit tradition.
+ Students will be prepared to practice "Cura Personalis" — care for the whole person — and work for social justice in their communities.
+ Students will graduate from our programs prepared to collaborate with families, build classroom communities, have high expectations for all students and advocate for social change.

Benefits of this program also include fieldwork and career opportunities. Practica, classroom observations and student teaching are integrated in the education curriculum experience at Saint Louis University. Throughout the program, students will spend a significant amount of time in local public or private schools. The faculty at Saint Louis University arranges placement in schools. Mutual satisfaction of the student, University and school districts is the goal of such placements.

Most graduates elect to pursue a career in teaching, but many choose to continue their studies in one of our graduate programs before entering the work force.

Career options in elementary education include:
+ Arts and education program coordinator
+ Educational outreach professional
+ Teacher, first through eighth grade
+ Private tutor
+ Nonprofit specialist

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:
+ Scholarships: awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need.
+ Financial Aid: provided in the form of grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, applicants should apply for admission by Dec. 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1.

For information on other scholarships and financial aid, visit the student financial services office online at finaid.slu.edu.