



Teacher Education K-8 Certificate

Program Shared Values

The program is committed to keeping the following shared values at the core of work in teacher education:

1. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

We work to create environments that support and enable all members of our community to feel welcome and thrive. We employ differentiated instruction, culturally responsive pedagogies, include indigenous ways of knowing, and place-based instruction in teacher education spaces and encourage our candidates to engage practices of teaching through culture and honoring a variety of worldviews. Our program regularly analyzes data to identify and rectify any gaps in student performance as they relate to issues of diversity, equity and inclusion.

2. Experiential Learning

Our program is committed to high quality experiential learning for candidates throughout their time in the program. We believe in the power and possibility of hands-on experiential learning and candidates have nearly 200 hours in the classroom before they student teach. Courses also include the opportunity for candidates to plan experiential learning experiences for students and their families.

3. Strong Relationships

We believe that teacher education, like all teaching, is strengthened by relationships. We seek to build strong relationships with our students and support them as they build relationships with their students, families, and communities. Students take a course that focuses entirely on how to get to know and respond to the cultural needs of your students (ED 67600). As a program we are engaged in continual work to develop and deepen strong and mutually beneficial relationships with a variety of stakeholders in order to support our mission, vision, and goals.

4. Inquiry

We believe that teacher education should be centered around candidate inquiry and work to develop dispositions to lifelong learning. The program concludes with a capstone inquiry project in which students are deeply engaged in asking and investigating pressing questions related to educational theory and practice.

5. Preparation of excellent teachers ready to meet the needs of the unique educational landscape of Alaska

Given the unique educational landscape of Alaska, our program is committed to preparing teachers ready to work in rural classrooms unlike those existing anywhere else in the United States as well as urban classrooms found in the largest cities in the state. Our program is committed to Alaska focused teacher education which highlights Indigenous ways of knowing and exposes candidates to rural education placements as well as placements in some of the most diverse urban districts in the country.

Candidate Shared Values

The Teacher Education program seeks to produce professional and ethical candidates who share commitments to these values:

1. The belief that all students can learn
2. Demonstrating fairness and respect with students, peers, and other adults.
3. Getting to know the needs, family, community, and culture of each student and building relationships with families and communities.
4. Deeply embracing and understanding the Alaska Code of Ethics for teachers.
5. Deeply embracing and understanding the Alaska Cultural Standards for Educators and culturally responsive, relevant and sustaining pedagogies.
6. Practicing and understanding Place-based and culturally responsive pedagogies
7. Understanding and valuing Indigenous ways of knowing
8. Continual professional learning and continuous reflective practice towards instructional improvement
9. The belief that language is important to share cultural knowledge and that Alaska Native and other first languages should be honored