Haley Placke is a senior from Johnstown, Colorado, who is finishing her student teaching. “Teaching has been my greatest passion throughout my entire life. I have wanted to be a teacher since I was 6 or 7 years old. At that time, playing ‘teacher’ was all I ever did; I even created my own class rosters and lessons as an elementary student,” she said.

“As a student who has always wanted to be a teacher, the education program at UNK stood out in my mind. I had heard several wonderful comments about this program at UNK, making it a very easy decision for me to attend UNK to pursue my dream of becoming a teacher. UNK has exceeded my expectations, and I highly recommend this program for anyone seeking a degree in education,” she said.

Placke especially likes the professors in the College of Education who made it a priority to get to know all the students. “Not only did they make their classes more personal, but class was always exciting and engaging, and we all learned through discussion and participation,” Placke said.

After graduation Placke is moving to North Platte where she has accepted a second grade teaching position. “My studies have helped me in numerous ways thus far in my student teaching, and will continue to help me in my future career. I am greatly awaiting to begin my time as a second grade teacher, and I cannot wait to see what the future holds.”

Important Information

Praxis: The Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators Tests are required for certification in Nebraska and are part of all undergraduate education programs at UNK. The Praxis Subject Assessments are also required for certification in Nebraska.

AETP: Nebraska’s Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program provides forgivable loans to eligible students who are working toward initial certification.

Student-Teaching: Arrangements are made for students who qualify to complete their student-teaching requirement in schools located in Nebraska and other states. Most pre-student-teaching and student-teaching field experiences take place in schools that are members of UNK Network of Partner Schools. UNK teacher candidates will complete 16 weeks (12 credit hours) of all-day student teaching. Some teacher candidates who pursue more than one endorsement will be required to complete more hours.
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION TEACHING FIELD ENDORSEMENT
FOUR YEAR CLASS SCHEDULE: BACHELOR OF ARTS IN EDUCATION

The schedule is a guideline for progress toward a degree. Consult with your academic adviser.

Semester 1 (16 credits)
ENG 102 Academic Writing/Research
SPCH 100 Fundamentals of Speech
TE 100GS Teaching in a Democratic Society
BIO 103 General Biology/Lab
Elective

Semester 2 (15 credits)
Approved HISTGS Course
PE 150GS Healthy, Wealthy and Wise
GS Portal
ART 100GS Art Structure
PSCI 110GS Introduction to American Politics

Semester 3 (16 credits)
MATH 104 Concepts in Math/Statistics
PHYS 100GS Physical Science/Lab
TE 204 Typical/Atypical Growth and Development
TE 206 Instructional Technology and the Preservice Teacher
PE 226 Elementary School Health Teaching
PE 340 Non-Rhythmic Physical Education

Semester 4 (16 credits)
Take any approved ECON, PSY, SOC, or GEOG GS
Take any approved ENG Literature GS
ENG 425 Children’s Literature
MUS 330 Music Methods
PE 361 Integrating Movement/Dance
Elective

Semester 5 (14.5 credits)
GS Capstone Course – Any 388
MATH 230GS Math for El. Teachers I
TE 31 Math Methods I
TE 313 Field Experience: Math
TE 318 Management and Assessment
TESE 323 Partnerships with Families
MATH 330GS Math for El. Teachers II

Semester 6 (15 credits)
ART 360 Elementary Art Methods
TE 331 Intermediate Literacy
TE 351 Reading in the Content Area
TE 352 Elementary Social Studies Methods
TE 353 Elementary Science Methods
TE 354 Field Experiences in El. School
Science/Social Studies/Content Area Reading

Semester 7 (15.5 credits)
TE 312 Math Methods II
TE 313 Field Experience: Math
TE 314 Phonics and Word Study
TE 315 Literacy Assessment
TE 316 Primary Grades Literacy
TE 317 Field Experience: Literacy
TE 411 Inclusive Practices PreK-8
Elective

Semester 8 (12 credits)
TE 400 Student Teaching

ALUMNI PROFILE – BRETT KLUEVER

“UNK was the perfect-sized fit for me,” said Brett Kluever, a 2009 graduate from Union, Iowa. Kluever decided that he wanted to become an elementary teacher while in high school after he completed a project for the National Honor Society running a basketball camp for third and fourth grade students.

While at UNK Kluever was able to student-teach in the community. “I was an ‘America Reads’ tutor at Central Elementary in Kearney. This was a place where I could hone my teaching skills. I can’t thank the staff I worked with enough for their willingness to let me into their classrooms. I learned so much from them, and their students. Eventually I even student-taught there. By the time I was done, I had worked in most grade levels and knew most of the students in the building,” he said.

“The opportunities that I had, and the relationships I built at UNK, helped shape me into the teacher I am today,” Kluever said. He is currently working toward his master’s degree in instructional technology at UNK.

Scholarships:
- Louise Adams Scholarship Fund
- Florence E. Davis Brainard Memorial Fund
- Grace Lundeen Frandsen Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Laura and Fred Knoontz Elementary Education Scholarship Fund
- Dr. Wayne Marshall Scholarship Fund
- Joann and Earl R. Rademacher Scholarship Fund
- Walter A. and Alice V. Rochwell Scholarship Fund

Clubs and Organizations:
- ELED Club
- Student Education Association of Nebraska
- Special Olympics College- UNK
- Kappa Delta Pi- Educational Honor Society

For more information, contact:
Chris Knoell
Department Chair, Associate Professor
COE B164
(308) 865-8335
knoellcm@unk.edu

Traits for success
A candidate in this degree must possess a love for teaching, and for continued learning; have classroom regulation skills, high standards for students, able to work well in a team, creativity and imagination, able to give clear directions, be a well-rounded communicator, be knowledgeable of the subject matter, engaging and enthusiastic, adaptable, organized, prepared, warm and caring.

Careers opportunities
When you complete this program you will be qualified to teach in public or private elementary school classrooms.