

# ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

RWU prepares you to teach in a 21<sup>st</sup> century classroom. You will learn about social issues directly affecting today's youth, and gain experience in diverse classrooms throughout all four years of your undergraduate career. Your immersive teaching placements and coursework will ensure that you meet standards for teaching licensure, and prepare you to land a great job after graduation.

## STUDENT EXPERIENCE

### Learn and Do More at RWU

With a focus on experiential learning at RWU, Elementary Education majors can:

#### Gain Real Teaching Experience

The best place to learn how to teach is right in an elementary classroom. That's why RWU students participate in field experiences all four years. Beginning in sophomore year, you spend 100 or more hours each semester working with children and learning from practicing teachers. In your final year, you will use all the skills you have gained to teach in your own class alongside a highly-qualified teacher. At RWU, you will graduate with many more hours in the field than is required by the Rhode Island Department of Education.



#### Study Abroad

Education majors are encouraged to spend a semester abroad. Being immersed in a new culture and language will help prepare you to teach in a global classroom.

#### Learn from Guest Speakers

The program hosts guest speakers each semester to discuss global issues directly affecting today's children. Lectures on immigration, global warming, and race will help prepare you to teach in the current climate.

- + Do you like working with children?
- + Do you have a passion for social justice and equity?
- + Are you interested in working with individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds?

## CAREER OUTLOOK

RWU Elementary Education graduates find teaching positions in the United States and abroad in placements like:

#### DOMESTIC:

- Argosy Charter
- Global Charter
- Success Academy
- Boston Public Schools
- Barrington Public Schools
- Bristol-Warren Public Schools
- Brookline Public Schools
- Denver Public Schools
- TESIS/Dorado, PR

#### INTERNATIONAL:

- Dominican Republic
- San Salvador, El Salvador
- Bermuda Public Schools
- Madrid, Spain International Schools

## Faculty

As an Elementary Education major, your professors become lifelong mentors. Small class size allows faculty to get to know students' interests, skills and goals. RWU faculty have many years of teaching experience and are available for guidance both in and outside the classroom. During your senior year, education faculty will mentor you throughout the job-seeking process or as you apply to graduate school.

## Resources

You will graduate ahead of the game by taking advantage of unique career development resources. The program is constantly adjusting to always be up-to-date with the changing teaching requirements for licensure.

- Elementary Education majors can also become certified to teach middle school if they have taken 21 credits in math, history, English, or science and an additional three courses in middle school teaching. The courses are offered at RWU as an add-on certificate program.
- Juniors and seniors can take a course on campus in Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) which prepares them to pass the Rethinking Equity and Teaching for English Language Learners (RETELL) exam, a requirement for teacher certification in Massachusetts.
- All students will graduate having met the 24-week teaching practicum requirement in Rhode Island.
- The program provides professional preparation such as mock interviews and resume-writing workshops, so students graduate confident in their abilities to apply for jobs and graduate school.

## CURRICULUM

All Elementary Education majors follow the Level I, II, and III sequence of courses and four years of field experience are incorporated into the curriculum.

**Level One:** Exploring the Profession

**Level Two:** Preparing to Teach

**Level Three:** Performing in the Classroom

## LICENSURE

All teacher education programs at RWU are approved by the Rhode Island Department of Education. Under the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) agreement, our graduates are eligible for certification in 47 states. Testing requirements vary for each state.

## Special Education 4 + 1 Program

As an undergraduate Elementary Education or secondary education major, you may apply to take two additional courses and earn six graduate credits during your senior year. If in good standing, you may continue on in one additional year of full-time study in the Master of Arts in Special Education Program. You will complete the remaining eight (for elementary special education candidates) or nine (for secondary special education candidates) as a matriculated graduate student. Candidates interested in this program must apply during their undergraduate junior year for conditional acceptance.

**OVER 80% OF  
RWU STUDENTS  
GRADUATE WITH  
MORE THAN JUST  
A SINGLE MAJOR**

Education majors can minor in Science, Technology, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM), earning a certificate that is in-demand for all districts.

