

# HDFS

# Elementary Education

# Dual Degree

## Frequently Asked Questions

### WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION

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## BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE DUAL DEGREE

### How does this Dual Degree Work?

*Be twice the teacher! You will get two different degrees from two different institutions:*

- NDSU Transcript & Diploma in:  
**Human Development & Family Science, Child Development Option**
- VCSU Transcript & Diploma in:  
**Elementary Education**

*You can do it in just four years and virtually all on the NDSU campus.*

The faculty from VCSU do almost all the commuting! They teach all of the Education courses on the NDSU campus. (With the exception of *one 10-day summer course* in early June of your junior year: EDUC 210) [Elementary Education 4-Year Plan](#)

### What classes are required to get these degrees?

You must pass all of the required classes listed on the curriculum guide in place when you declare your major as elementary education. A “curriculum guide” is simply a list of required classes maintained by Registration & Records.

[Current Curriculum Guide](#)

For more details about curriculum guide regulations: [Academic Requirements](#) section of the NDSU Registration & Records Homepage.

## TEACHING LICENSE

### What will I be licensed to teach?

Students completing this program will be licensed to teach in North Dakota grades 1 – 6. Other endorsements credentials and certifications are available with additional coursework.

#### **Optional Certifications, Credentials & Endorsements through VCSU:**

- Kindergarten Endorsement-VCSU Online
- Middle School Endorsement-VCSU Online or NDSU
- Reading Credential-VCSU Online
- English Language Learner Endorsement-VCSU Online
- Technology Ed Minor-VCSU Online

#### **Optional Certifications through NDSU & MSUM**

- Coaching Certification NDSU
- Special Education Certification- MSUM Tri-College

## What does it take to get licensed in MN?

First, graduates will apply for their North Dakota Teaching License. Once you receive a ND license you are eligible to apply for a teaching license in MN. As part of the application process, the MN State Board of Education will verify that all the MN teacher education requirements have been met. *Graduates of the Current VCSU Elementary Education Curriculum meet all but the Human Relations Requirements for MN licensure.* Students can fulfill this requisite before graduation by simply completing the following VCSU course:

**EDUC 283: Understanding Cultural Diversity in Education** This VCSU course is offered online every fall and spring semester. *The MN State Board of Education has approved this course as meeting the multicultural education objectives.*

[Note: Out-of-state applicants who have not met the human relations requirement may be issued a one-year license in MN. The human relations requirement will appear as a renewal condition on the license, and this requirement must be met during that year in order to renew the license, either through the verification chart or completion of an approved human relations course.]

For more information about the Application for Educator Licensing in MN, please visit the [MN State Board of Education](#).

\*Note: Starting July 2010, students interested in being licensed in MN will also have to take the [Minnesota Teacher Licensure Examinations \(MTLE\)](#) in addition to the PRAXIS/PPST exam.

## PROGRAM LENGTH

### How long does this program take?

The dual degree program is designed to be completed in four years with just 134 credit hours. [Elementary Education 4-Year Plan](#).

## APPLICATION PROCESS

### Do I have to apply to VCSU?

Yes, but this is all done through the NDSU School of Education office the semester before you begin taking VCSU classes. See: [What are the steps to register for VCSU classes?](#)

### What are the requirements to be admitted into the VCSU Teacher Education Program?

Students are typically admitted into Teacher Education after completing EDUC, 250 Introduction to Teacher Education. In this course the Teacher Education Handbook is reviewed and enrollees are given application forms to complete and submit to the Dean and the Teacher Education Committees.

A student must meet the following criteria to be considered for admission.

1. A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50.
2. Satisfactory academic performance in ENGL 110 and 120 and successful completion of a speech screening test.
3. Written recommendations from the advisor, a School of Education instructor and any other related professionals.
4. Meet state and VCSU PPST (Praxis) standards.
5. Demonstrate proper dispositions necessary to teach for learning.

The Teacher Education Committee will review the documentation and make a recommendation to the School of Education Dean to accept or deny the application for admission to the program. If the applicant is denied admission due to a condition that can be corrected, the applicant may reapply when the deficiency is removed.

For more information regarding admission and continuance in the Teacher Education Program at VCSU visit: <http://www.vcsu.edu/>

## TEACHER LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION EXAMS

### PPST/PRAXIS/MTLE

#### Will I have to take the Praxis (PPST), Teacher Licensure and Certification Exam? When should I take it?

Like most teacher education programs, students in the VCSU Elementary Education Program are required to take the [Praxis I & II](#).

Praxis I measures reading, writing and math skills. Students are encouraged to take this test during the fall of their junior year while they are enrolled in Introduction to Education, EDUC 250.

Praxis I is offered in two formats. The paper/pencil format is offered seven times a year at several universities & colleges including NDSU & VCSU. In addition, the computerized version is offered year round at certified testing centers. The closest center is the [Prometric Testing Center](#) in South Fargo, ND.

Praxis II measures specific teacher education subject knowledge. Praxis II is only offered in a pencil/paper based format. Students take this test right before student teaching. For ND licensure, elementary education students must pass the Praxis II Subject Areas:

- *Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment*
- *Principles of Learning and Teaching: Grades K-6 Subject Tests.*

To find out more about the dates, cost and required minimum scores, please contact one of the VCSU Elementary Education Faculty. Additional PPST/Praxis information is available online at: [www.ets.org/praxis/](http://www.ets.org/praxis/).

## REGISTERING FOR CLASSES

### What are the steps to register for VCSU classes?

**Step One:** In March of your sophomore year, NDSU students *declared* in the dual degree program are *mailed the Dual Degree Registration Form* and invited to begin taking the VCSU classes.

*\*Make sure your correct address is listed in your student center on Campus Connection!*

**Step Two:** Students must complete and turn in the following items to Jeanette Hoffman in FLC 210 by the stated deadline.

- ***Dual Degree Registration Form***
- A copy of their transcript from all institutions from which they have college credit (including NDSU). Students can print a copy of their NDSU transcript from Campus Connection.  
(Students with a 2.50 GPA or higher are given first priority.)

**Step Three:** Approved students are asked to complete the:

- ***Application for Admission VCSU Elementary Education at NDSU form.*** Again, this must be turned in to Jeanette Hoffman in FLC 210 by the stated deadline.

(Dual degree students ***do not*** need to complete the “regular” VCSU admission form or pay the admission fee).

**Step Four:** Students must:

- ***Request all of their OFFICIAL transcripts be sent directly to the VCSU Registrar.***

Registrar’s Office  
Valley City State University  
101 College Street SW  
Valley City, ND 58072

**\*THIS INCLUDES REQUESTING AN OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT FROM NDSU AND SENDING IT TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS!**

**Step Five:** To register for the VCSU classes, students must fill out the:

- ***Collaborative Course Request Form.*** This form is available [online](#) It is also available in FLC 210.

**Step Six:** Students will register for their NDSU courses through regular campus connection registration. There are some NDSU classes you will NOT register for. Please see, “Can I register for *only* VCSU courses?”

## What is the difference between NDSU Secondary Education Courses and VCSU Elementary Education Courses?

Secondary education and elementary education courses are completely different. ***NDSU Secondary Education courses will not count toward your elementary degree or teaching license.*** The one and only exception is EDUC 489.

PLEASE NOTE! Make sure you do not register for education courses using Campus Connection, as these are SECONDARY education courses. (Again, the one and only exception is EDUC 489 through NDSU.)

This is very important as many of the NDSU and VCSU Education classes have the same number and titles. For example: both programs have a course called “Introduction to Education”, and both programs have courses numbered as EDUC 321 & EDUC 322. Again, regardless of the similar names and numbers, **VCSU AND NDSU CLASSES WILL NOT COUNT FOR EACH OTHER!**

***The ONLY Education class that works for both licensures is EDUC 489, Native Americans and Multicultural Instructional Practices.*** This is your only NDSU education course. EDUC 489 is required by the State Board of Education by BOTH elementary and secondary students. Therefore, students can take this course through NDSU. To register for this class, you will need a special permission slip. Please see [How do I sign up for EDUC 489, Native Americans & Multicultural Instructional Practices?](#) Students will register for all other education courses (which are VCSU classes) using the Collaborative Registration Form. Please see “[What are the steps to register for VCSU classes?](#)”

## How do I sign up for EDUC 489, Native Americans & Multicultural Instructional Practices?

The State Board of Education requires BOTH elementary and secondary students to take EDUC 489 or an equivalent course. Therefore, Dual Degree Students can take this course through NDSU. Typically, students take this course the spring of their sophomore year.

This class has a listed prerequisite as “Admission into the School of Education”, however, through a special agreement with NDSU’s School of Education, students declared in elementary education can register for this class by going to EML 155 and asking the administrative assistant for a permission slip.

## Can I register for *only* VCSU courses?

No, students must register for at least one NDSU credit each fall and spring semester that they are enrolled in the program.

Note: Students enrolled in EDUC 350, Practicum, and EDUC 490, Student Teaching, are **automatically** enrolled for one credit in CDFS 496. This allows NDSU students to have access to NDSU services while taking all VCSU courses. [See Current Curriculum Guide](#)

However, we do not list these classes on the [4 Year Plan](#), so students do not get confused and sign up for these themselves. *When this process is done automatically, students do not have to pay for this credit.*

### Can I just get the Elementary Education degree without the Human Development Degree as well?

The VCSU Elementary Education degree on the NDSU campus is only offered if a student also completes an NDSU degree. Students can obtain a different degree at NDSU, but it is unlikely they could finish both programs in the four-year time frame.

## COST

### Is there an additional cost for the Program?

If you are full time, during your first two years, you will pay full time NDSU tuition and fees, as you will only take NDSU courses.

Once you start your VCSU courses, you will start paying the per credit hour tuition and fee rate at each institution depending on how many credits you are taking at each school. Per credit tuition & fee information can be found at:  
[VCSU Tuition & Fees](#)  
[NDSU Tuition & Fees](#)

**Note:** The per-credit hour tuition cost at the two schools is virtually identical. **The VCSU per-credit rate is currently slightly lower than NDSU.**

### What is the “Laptop Fee”?

“The Student Technology Fee is VCSU's effort to improve learning via learner-centered technology. Each and every full time student is issued a laptop computer which you can use for word processing, communicating with faculty and other students, finding information from libraries and other sources throughout the world, developing class presentations, generating spreadsheets and databases, electronic storage of your best work in college to show when seeking employment, and many disciplines have specific applications. ” VCSU website: <http://www.vcsu.edu/> Because the software on the VCSU laptop is essential to the assignments in the VCSU elementary education courses, students in the collaborative NDSU/VCSU program must pay the full-time technology fee for all face-to-face courses. To find out more: <http://itc.vcsu.edu/laptopinitiative/>

By paying this fee, students are given a new laptop computer with all the teacher education software they need!

**Note: This “laptop fee” is currently only \$20.00 more a semester than full time NDSU fees. THIS IS YOUR ONLY VCSU FEE, there are no additional VCSU fees.**

Students taking less than 12 NDSU credits continue to pay NDSU fees on a per credit hour basis (currently about \$40.00 per credit hour).

### Which school will I pay?

You will pay tuition for all four years through the NDSU Business office. NDSU will take care of reimbursing the VCSU portion of your tuition & fees to Valley City.

### Will my financial aid count at both schools?

Yes, your *federal* financial aid will work just as it normally does.

However, students should check with the [NDSU Student Financial Services](#) as to whether particular scholarships and tuition waivers will “count” for both the VCSU and NDSU tuition and fee charges.

## COURSE LOCATION

### Do I have to travel to Valley City to take the VCSU courses?

*Virtually all VCSU courses are taught on the NDSU campus on Tuesday & Thursdays. The VCSU elementary education faculty do the commuting for you!*

There is one course that NDSU students will have to take on the VCSU campus, EDUC 210, Creative Activities-2 Credits. This course is taught in early June. Students typically take this course during the summer between their junior and senior years. The VCSU faculty have worked very hard to minimize the burden of this on students and have designed the course so that it can be taken in *just ten days*. Students are encouraged to carpool to minimize the commuting expense.)

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## CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

### General Education Requirements

\*The VCSU registrar has the final authority to decide on all general education requirements, waivers and exceptions.

### Wellness

#### Can I take one of the other approved wellness courses instead of HNES 100?

No, the only class that works for this requirement is HNES 100, Concepts of Fitness and Wellness. Students can certainly take CDFS 242, Couples Marriages and Families, as one of their CDFS electives, but it won't "double count" for the wellness requirement.

## Quantitative Reasoning (Math)

### Does College Algebra, Math 103 Count for my Quantitative Reasoning General Ed?

If a student has transferred Math 103, College Algebra, from a regionally accredited institution, *and it has been approved as for transfer as a quantitative reasoning general education requirement*, then he or she can use this course. However, Math 103 taken at NDSU is NOT an approved quantitative reasoning; therefore **it will NOT fulfill this requirement for students entering elementary education after Fall 2009.**

PLEASE SEE: [Approved Quantitative Reasoning Courses](#)

Note: STAT 330, CSCI 122, 124, 159 are approved quantitative reasoning general education courses at NDSU, however, these courses **will NOT count** for ND teaching licensure, therefore we require you to take a *math* course for this general education course.

### Can I use a higher math than 104?

**Yes.** You can use these other approved quantitative reasoning **math** courses: Math 146, Applied Calculus, and Math 165, Calculus I.

## Science & Technology

### Why are there so many specific science and technology requirements?

As an elementary education teacher, you will be teaching children about *all areas* of science as well as using current computer technology. The ND State Standards and Practices Board require that elementary education students have **at least one biological, one physical and one earth science course**. Therefore, as indicated in the [Curriculum Guide](#) students need the following science & technology courses:

- Biological Science Requirement: One course listed as “BIOL”
- Physical Science Requirement: One course listed as “CHEM *or* PHYS”
- Earth Science Requirement: One of two specific courses:  
Either GEOL 105 or GEOL 106
- One Co-requisite Lab (the lab must directly match the course you have taken for one of the three previous categories. Again, you only need *one* lab.)
- Computer Science (CSCI) 114 or 116

## Humanities & Fine Arts

### Can I take a Humanities & Fine Arts Class that is not listed on the [Curriculum Guide](#)?

No, you must take one Humanities and Fine Arts course from courses listed on the [Curriculum Guide](#). These courses have been carefully selected as options that will work for the general education requirements from each school. You must take *one course* from Humanities Area I Section and *one course* from the Humanities Area II Section. In rare circumstances, students can petition to have different courses approved through the both the NDSU and VCSU registrar. As stated in the formal agreement, VCSU will make the final decision on all general education exceptions.

## ADDITIONAL CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

### Geography 111

#### Can I take a different Geography class than GEOG 111?

Typically, students must take GEOG 111, 2 credits, through VCSU. It is offered online. In rare circumstances, students can petition to have different courses approved. However, students must petition both the NDSU and VCSU registrar. As stated in the formal agreement, VCSU will make the final decision on all general education exceptions.

### HDFS Electives

#### What can I take for the HDFS Electives?

Students must complete 12 didactic HDFS elective credits. These electives can be any HDFS course that is not already listed on the [Curriculum Guide](#).

**\*PLEASE NOTE!** Students may *NOT* use **HDFS 230, Lifespan Development**, for this section. The material in this course is covered in other required coursework and **this class will NOT count toward this degree.**

## Directed Electives

### What are the Directed Electives?

Students are required to take six or more credits of directed electives. These can be used to enhance your area of interest and marketability. We encourage students to use their directed electives to work on additional certifications & endorsements as count toward both.

#### **VCSU Courses that work for Directed Electives:**

EDUC 375 Reading in the Content Area (Online)  
 EDUC 305 Philosophy & Curriculum of Middle Education (Online)  
 EDUC 470 Methods of Teaching in Middle School (Online)  
 EDUC 430 Diagnosis & Correction of Reading (IVN or online summer)  
 EDUC 310 Introduction to Early Childhood (Online summer)  
 EDUC 313 Language and Literacy  
 EDUC 340 Learning Disabilities  
 EDUC 345 Emotionally Disturbed (Online summer)  
 EDUC 435 Kindergarten Education and Curriculum (Online summer)  
 TECH 306 Invention & Innovative Techniques in Educating Children (Online)  
 ENGL 390 Methods of Teaching ESL (Online)

#### **NDSU Courses that work for Directed Electives**

EDUC 471 Middle School Philosophy & Curriculum  
 EDUC 472 Middle Level Teaching Methods  
 EDUC 475 Reading in the Content Area

#### **MSUM Courses that work for Directed Electives**

SPED 445 Remedial & Corrective Reading  
 SPED 473 Emotional Behavior Disorders

## ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATIONS & ENDORSEMENTS

What additional certifications, endorsements & teaching credentials can I get to enhance my elementary education degree?

### English Language Learner Endorsement-VCSU Online

Six additional courses. All courses are available online. For more information contact: Joan Aus, [joan.aus@vcsu.edu](mailto:joan.aus@vcsu.edu)

ENGL 309 Linguistics

ENGL 409 Language and Culture (ENGL 309 is prerequisite)

ENGL 363 Assessment of ELL

\*ENGL 390 Methods of Teaching ELL (*will count toward elementary education directed elective requirement*)

ENGL 464 ELL Practicum

ENGL 283 Understanding Cultural Diversity

### Kindergarten Endorsement-VCSU Online

Four additional courses plus 5 weeks of additional student teaching. All courses are available online. Many will count for the required 6 credits of directed electives. For more information contact: Amy Anderson, [amy.anderson@vcsu.edu](mailto:amy.anderson@vcsu.edu)

\*EDUC 310 Intro to Early Childhood (*will count toward elementary education directed elective requirement*)

\*EDUC 313 Language and Literacy (will count toward elementary education directed elective requirement)

\*EDUC 435 Kindergarten Education and Curriculum (*will count toward elementary education directed elective requirement*)

EDUC 337 Observation and Assessment

EDUC 485 Student Teaching

### Reading Credential-VCSU Online

Three additional courses. All courses are available online. For more information on contact Cindy Zahn, [cindy.zahn@vcsu.edu](mailto:cindy.zahn@vcsu.edu)

EDUC 430 Diagnosis and Correction of Reading

EDUC 431 Reading Practicum

\*EDUC 375 Reading in the Content Area (*will count toward elementary education directed elective requirement*)

### Middle School Endorsement-VCSU Online or NDSU

- Students must take the three middle school courses. (These can be taken through either VCSU or NDSU, but all must be completed at the same institution)  
 EDUC 305 Middle School Philosophy (*will count toward elementary education directed elective requirement*)  
 EDUC 470 Methods of Teaching Middle School (*will count toward elementary education directed elective requirement*)  
 EDUC 375 Reading in Content Areas
- 24 hours in the content area such as Math, Science, English or Social Studies. Additional requirement information is available at:  
<http://www.nd.gov/espb/licensure/majorequivforms.html>

### Technology Ed Minor-VCSU Online

Nine additional Courses

TECH 206 Introduction to Technology Education

TECH 256 & Lab Resources and Technology

TECH 306 & Lab Inventions & Innovations Technology for Children.

TECH 330 & Lab Exploring Technology

TECH 331 & Lab Innovation & Engineering Design

TECH 411 Curriculum & Methods

TECH 431 & Lab Design for Engineering

TECH 456 & Lab Intelligent Machines

TECH Elective-

1 course needed: TECH 391, TECH 478, TECH 242, TECH 416,  
 TECH 450, TECH 310

### Coaching Certification NDSU

One additional Course

HNES 211 Successful Coaching. Students are encouraged to also complete a coaching practicum. For more information contact: Joe Deutsch, [joe.deutsch@ndsu.edu](mailto:joe.deutsch@ndsu.edu)

### Special Education Certification- MSUM Tri-College

Five additional courses. For more information contact Keri DeSutter  
[desutter@mnstate.edu](mailto:desutter@mnstate.edu)

SPED 320-MSUM (or equivalent: EDUC 240 VCSU- is a required course for all elementary education students) is a prerequisite for advanced special education coursework.

SPED 413 Instructional Strategies: MSUM through Tri-College  
 \*SPED 445 Remedial & Corrective Reading: MSUM through Tri-College  
*(will count toward elementary education directed elective requirement)*  
 SPED 471 Behavior and Environment Management: MSUM through Tri-College

Students must take two of the following disability –specific courses.

SPED 419 Biomedical Aspects of Physical & Health Disabilities:  
 MSUM through Tri-College  
 SPED 423 Young Children with Disabilities and Their Families:  
 MSUM through Tri-College  
 SPED 461 Learning Disabilities: MSUM through Tri-College  
 \*SPED 473 Emotional/Behavioral Disorders: MSUM through Tri-College  
*(will count toward elementary education directed elective requirement)*

### WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION

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