This program leads to a profession which requires an occupational license as defined under Texas Occupations Code 58.001. This requires that all applicants seeking to become licensed must undergo a criminal background check prior to licensure. Students in this program should check with the College of Education and P-16 Integration on the requirements for a criminal background check prior to student teaching.

To prepare highly skilled professionals to assume roles and positions in teaching, research, educational leadership, and human development to contribute to the educational achievement of children in elementary settings.

**A – GENERAL EDUCATION CORE – 42 HOURS**

Students must fulfill the General Education Core requirements. The courses listed below satisfy both degree requirements and General Education core requirements.

**Required**

020 - Mathematics – 3 hours
Choose the following or higher:
MATH 1314 College Algebra

050 - Creative Arts – 3 hours
ARTS 1301 Art Appreciation

**B – MAJOR REQUIREMENTS – 60 HOURS (39 advanced minimum)**

1 – Academic Content – 30 hours minimum (15 advanced minimum)

MUSI 1313 Teaching Music in the Elementary School
Choose one (not completed in General Education Core):
BIOL 1406 General Biology I (or BIOL 1487 Honors)
BIOL 1407 General Biology II (or BIOL 1488 Honors)
BIOL 3301 Biological Evolution
BIOL 4315 Inquiry-based Science and Laboratory Techniques (or BIOL 4387 Honors)
Choose one (not completed in General Education Core):
GEOL 1403 Physical Geology
ASTR 1401 Introduction to Astronomy I
GEOG 2313 Principles of Geography Physics Elementary
PSCI 3310 Planet Earth and Its Place
HIST 3301 World History Studies
KINE 3355 Teaching Health and Wellness in the Elementary Classroom
MATH 1350 Fundamentals of Mathematics I
MATH 1351 Fundamentals of Mathematics II
READ 3320 Early Literacy Development
READ 3324 Reading Comprehension and Assessment
READ 3350 Literature and Disciplinary Learning in the Elementary School

2 – Special Education Specialization – 18 hours (18 advanced)

Special Education Specialization allows the student the opportunity to become a teacher in the State of Texas with EC-6 Generalist and EC-12 Special Education certification and work in schools with children in early childhood through 6th grades.

Area of Certification: Generalist (EC-6) with Special Education (EC-12)

SPED 3390 Introduction to Exceptional Children
SPED 4330 Language and Literacy Development of Diverse Exceptional Learners
SPED 4350 Assessing Exceptional Learners
SPED 4370 Instructional Methods for Students with Low Incidence Disabilities
SPED 4380 Instructional Methods for Students with Learning Disabilities
SPED 4395 Special Education Practicum in Behavior Techniques

3 – Education Support Courses – 12 hours (6 advanced)

EDUC 1301 Introduction to the Teaching Profession
EDFR 2301 Intercultural Context of Schooling
SPED 4310 Inclusion and Differentiated Instruction in Special Education
EDSL 3310 Emergent Bilingual Students in Schools

C - TEACHER CERTIFICATION – 24 HOURS (24 advanced)

Choose one:
- EDCI 3331 Human Development and Student Learning
- EPSY 3331 Human Development and Student Learning
- EDCI 3332 Designing and Implementing Instruction and Assessment
- EDCI 3333 Teaching Science to Elementary Students
- EDCI 3334 Teaching Mathematics to Elementary Students
- EDCI 3335 Teaching Social Studies to Elementary Students
- EDCI 3336 Teaching English Language Arts and Reading to Elementary Students
- EDCI 4637 Student Teaching for Elementary Teachers (EC-6)

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS FOR GRADUATION – 126 HOURS
TOTAL ADVANCED HOURS (MINIMUM) – 63 HOURS

ADMISSION, PROGRESSION, AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS, if applicable:

Progression requirements
For teacher certification, students must apply for admission and be accepted to the College of Education and P-16 Integration prior to enrolling in teacher certification courses, except for EDFR 2301 which is open to all students.

Graduation requirements
In addition to the graduation requirements listed in the UTRGV 2017-2018 Undergraduate Catalog, demonstration of proficiency in a language other than English is required at the undergraduate level equivalent to a minimum of six credit hours. Proficiency can be demonstrated by a college credit exam, a placement test approved through the UTRGV Department of Writing and Language Studies, and/or up to six credit hours of college-level language coursework.