Program Overview

The Liberal Studies/Elementary Education major (LSEE) at Humboldt State University provides focused, hands-on university coursework aligned with clinical practice in elementary schools that allows students who complete the integrated credential pathway* to earn a Bachelors of Arts (B.A.) degree in Liberal Studies with a concentration in Elementary Education and be recommended for a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential in four years.

The LSEE program integrates subject matter and pedagogy with clinical experience. For example, as future teachers study how young children learn to count, the practicum provides an opportunity to work with young children, so our future teachers learn to differentiate how to engage and convey ideas with different learners. Our program prepares teachers to:

- have deeper understanding of how learners make sense of what is taught,
- how to organize learning to build on learners’ experiences and interests so that the presented materials make sense to learners, and
- apply what they learned in schools in one-on-one tutoring, small and large group activity centers and teaching, and whole class instruction.

Future teachers in our program begin teacher preparation as early as their freshman year, by observing how students’ learning is influenced by pedagogy or how the teacher organizes and provides the learning tasks. Partnerships with local K-8 schools provide our students ample opportunities to learn about and with young children.

Community college transfer students may need to take a higher unit-load per term to graduate in two years. Generally, both freshmen and transfer students are eligible for financial aid throughout their enrollment in the program.

Due to the robust clinically-based preparation and classroom practice with university faculty and local teachers as mentors, candidates who complete the program will have fulfilled the 600 hours of clinical experience required for teaching in California. Graduates of our program will be equipped for the role of classroom teacher, prepared to educate our youth, and help address the state’s critical teacher shortage.

* pending WSCUC & CSU Chancellor’s Office approval