THE COURSES
Courses within the elementary education major address content related to developmental psychology, foundations of education, classroom management, curriculum, instruction, and assessment, with crosscutting themes of educational technology and culturally responsive teaching. The courses provide multiple opportunities to observe/practice what is learned on and off campus within diverse educational contexts.

INTERNSHIPS/RESEARCH
Elementary Education candidates take part in multiple field experiences tied to coursework starting in their first year. Field experiences increase in intensity as candidates move through the major, providing crucial experience as preparation for formal internships in their senior year. In the fall they observe/participate in a classroom for a 50+ hour practicum experience mentored by a master teacher and a VWU professor. In the spring, the internship requires full teaching responsibility in two teaching contexts totaling 300+ hours. During this experience, candidates are required to employ and respond to action research measuring their teaching effectiveness.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM
VWU boasts many close partnerships with educational organizations and school districts which offer unpaid and paid teaching opportunities on and off campus while pursuing the major. Innovative grant-funded programs and study away opportunities also provide learning experiences beyond the classroom.

CONTACT INFORMATION
Bill McConnell, Ph.D.
Director of Teacher Education
Associate Professor of Education
wmconnell@vwu.edu