



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
WERKLUND SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

**Online Bachelor of Education Programs Offered in Colleges and Universities
Throughout Canada, the United States, and Australia**

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A Message from the Research Team

The research team has prepared this overview of online Bachelor of Education programs offered in Canada, the United States and Australia. While we have endeavoured to distil the information we have gathered accurately, we advise readers who are interested in more information to consult the original works. As a matter of course, when undertaking a summary of complex matters, some details must be left out.

We would like to thank the Research Office of Werklund School of Education, University of Calgary for providing us the means to complete this report with a WSE Enhancement Grant. We also offer our gratitude to those colleagues who have supported us in this work and offered us insights during our research.

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Terms of Reference

This report provides an overview of the current online teacher preparation programs offered in an online format. The criteria considered for our inquiry included:

1. Pre-service teacher preparation programs in Canada, the United States and Australia.
2. Programs offered at both universities and colleges, with both types of institutions considered as legitimate post-secondary providers of teacher preparation programs.
3. Programs offered in both English and (in Canada) French.

This report builds upon the work previously done the research team in the area of online and blended teacher education programs. The aim of this report is to provide a general overview of the key themes, but the review of the literature is neither exhaustive nor exclusive.

Abstract

Beginning in Fall 2015, the University of Calgary will be offering a blended Bachelor of Education program to address issues of equity and access for rural and remote students who wish to become teachers, yet remain in their home communities. To this end, a research team from the university is exploring best practices in online and blended education. Part of the search includes determining online Bachelor of Education programs that exist currently. A review of universities in Canada, the U. S., and Australia determined that at this time, there are few offering fully online or blended Bachelor of Education programs, suggesting opportunities exist for programs to be created to address the needs of rural and remote students.

As part of the background research in preparation for offering a new community-based, blended teacher preparation program at the University of Calgary, addressing the need for equity and access for rural and remote students, a search of online bachelor of education programs was conducted. This search had a particular focus on Canada, the United States, and Australia. The purpose of this search was to determine the number of universities offering online programming, to what extent, and for whom.

The authors used information from the Universities Canada website, U.S. News and World Report Education Rankings and Advice, and List of Universities in Australia to guide the identification of colleges and universities that offer online bachelor of education programs.

Each university website was searched using the terms “Bachelor of Education” “and “online programs”. Though the authors endeavoured to achieve the utmost accuracy in research, the information presented on some university websites was conflicting. Websites indicated students could often earn degrees online, but whether they would be qualified as teachers was not always stated clearly (particularly in U. S. college websites).

Online Bachelor of Education Programs in Canada

An online review of the websites of 87 universities in Canada (as identified on the Universities Canada website) was conducted to determine programming opportunities for potential Bachelor of Education students. Though there are several Canadian universities offering satellite Bachelor of Education programs in rural and northern locations, according to information presented on university websites, there is no university offering a fully online or blended Bachelor of Education degree program in Canada. It appears that all programs reviewed require residency, even in satellite locations, for completion of the

degree. According to the Canadian Virtual University, “A bachelor of education in French is offered completely through distance education for those intending to teach French immersion or in French schools.” This claim was not substantiated by a thorough search of university websites. TÈLUQ offers an online Bachelor of Education in French, but successful completion does not provide access to a teaching certificate.

The universities with satellite Bachelor of Education programs include the University of Alberta, University of Regina, and the University of Saskatchewan.

Table 1: Satellite Bachelor of Education Degrees in Canada

University	Satellite BEd Program Locations	Eligible to Teach	Notes
University of Regina	With Cumberland College in Melfort, Nipawin, Tisdale, Hudson Bay With Northwest Regional College in Battlefords, Meadow Lake With Yukon College in Whitehorse, Yukon With Nunavut Artic College in Nunavut In LaRonge	Yes	Both BEd and BEad (after degree) offered Community based Classes from both the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan
University of Saskatchewan	1. With Aurora College teacher ed program (3 year, community based, rotating program) 2. Thebacha Campus, Fort Smith (4 year	1. Diploma and K-9 Northwest Territories teaching certificate 2. Yes	-Can begin studies at 12 different regional partner colleges

	BEd)		
University of Alberta	Red Deer (Middle years - Red Deer College), Grande Prairie (Elementary teacher education north - Grande Prairie Regional College), Fort MacMurray (Collaborative elementary education - Keyano College)	Yes	-Must have two years transferable credit to enter -These programs not offered at the main campus

Online Bachelor of Education Programs in Australia

On online review of the websites of 40 universities in Australia (as identified on the Australian universities website) was conducted to determine programming opportunities for potential Bachelor of Education students. Of those 40, ten universities offered online learning in education faculties. Of those ten universities, only four offered programs for secondary teachers. In all cases, included in the online program were face-to-face field experiences.

Table 2: Online Bachelor of Education Degrees in Australia

University	Available Online Bachelor of Education Degrees	Eligible to Teach	Notes
Central Queensland University	Primary, Secondary	Yes	Some with residency component
Open Universities Australia	Primary	Yes	Partnered with Curtin University
Edith Cowan University	Primary	Yes	
Swinburne University of Technology	Primary	Yes	
University of Southern Queensland	Primary, Phys Ed	Yes	Blended online and on campus
University of New England	Primary, Secondary, Various specializations	Yes	
Australian Catholic University	Indigenous Studies	Yes	Multimodal blended program
Charles Darwin University	Early Childhood, Primary, Secondary	Yes	Online except music and visual arts
Southern Cross University	Primary, Secondary	Yes	
University of Tasmania	Primary, Applied Learning	Yes	

Online Bachelor of Education Programs in the U.S.

A survey of 220 ranked colleges identified by U. S. News and World Report as having the “Best Online Bachelor’s Programs” was undertaken to determine if any offered online Bachelor of Education programs. It was indicated in the report that 24 colleges offered an online Bachelor of Education, Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science with an education focus. An online review of the 24 college websites showed that while

the course work led to Bachelor's degrees, further coursework and testing was often needed in order to be eligible to teach. Of the 24 colleges only five offered programs for secondary teachers.

The methodology used to develop the rankings is outlined on the U.S. News and World Report website:

"Student engagement (instructor accessibility, rewarding learning)	40%
Faculty credentials and training	20%
Peer reputation (quality among academics)	20%
Student services and technology (diverse online learning technologies)	20%"

(Brooks & Morse, 2015).

When cross-referencing *US News Best Online Programs* with *US News Best Education School Rankings* – the only schools that showed up in both lists were the University of Cincinnati and the University of New Mexico.

Table 3: Online Bachelor Degrees (U.S.) with an Ed Focus

University	Degrees Granted	Fully Online	Public University	US News Ranking-Best Online Bachelors	Teaching Certificate
Central Michigan	BSc (eg. in elem. Ed)	No	Yes	#13	Must pass test
University of Wisconsin (Superior)	Bachelor in Elem. Ed.	Mostly	Yes	#23	Yes -prep for licensure
Western Carolina University	BSc in Birth-kindergarten ECS	Yes	Yes	#90	Yes - prep for licensure
Cal State (Chico)	BA in Liberal Studies – leads to elem.	Yes	Yes	#72	Follow up with credential

	teaching				program
Granite State College	BA in Early Childhood Ed.	Yes	Yes	#63	Qualified for teaching certificate
University of Missouri	Bachelor of Educational Studies	Yes	Yes	#98	No
Concordia University – St. Paul	BA in Child Development	Yes	No	#40	No
National University	BA in Elem. Ed., English, Social Science	Yes	No	Not published	Nevada or California Licensure
University of Cincinnati	BA Early Childhood, PreK -3	No	Yes	#180 Ranked #76 BES*	May apply for license
Southwestern College	BA in Elem. Ed.	Yes	No	#136	Licensed for K-6 Kansas
University of West Alabama	BSc in Early Childhood Development	Yes	Yes	Not published	No
Florida International University	BSc in Early Childhood Development	Yes	Yes	#98	No
Arkansas Tech University	Bachelor in Early Childhood Education	Yes	Yes	Not published	Can work with students PreK-4
Valley City State University	BS in Ed (Business, English, History or Tech)	Yes – except practicum	Yes. Education a big part of the online program	#111	“Designed for public school teaching positions.”
East Carolina University	BS in Ed (Birth-kindergarten, elem., business)	Last half	Yes	#207	Can apply for license
Liberty University	BS in Ed (Early Childhood, Elem, Special Ed	Most	Non-profit Christian	#79	Can be licensed after extra year of studies

Northcentral University – Prescott, AZ	BEd Completion (last two years) in Elem, Secondary, Special Ed	Yes	Proprietary	#158	Licensed in Arizona
Southwestern College	BA in Elem.Ed.	Yes	Private	#136	Licensed to teach K-6 in Kansas
University of Wisconsin – Stout (Certified for excellence in distance ed practices)	BSc in Tech. Ed	Blended – Ed courses online	Public	#142	Licensed in Wisconsin
University of New Mexico	BSc in Elem. Ed	Through interactive tv	Public	#161 Ranked #115 BES*	Licensed in New Mexico
St. Mary-of-the-Woods College	Bachelor's degree	Not clearly stated	Private	#199	Licensed in Indiana
Mayville State University	BS.Ed in Elem.Ed, Math Ed, Special Ed,	Blended-designed in cohort rotation	Public	#211	Not clearly stated
Asbury University	BSc in Elem. Ed	Completely online or blended	Private	#214	Not clearly stated
Bemidji State University	BSc in Elem. Ed	1 st two years on campus, 3 years online with 3 FTF per year	Public	Rank not published	Yes

*BES= *US News and World Report Best Education School*

Conclusions

This research indicates that currently there are few universities in Canada, the U.S. or Australia offering online Bachelor of Education programs, particularly for students who have a desire to become secondary teachers. Conversely, this also means that there are opportunities for post-secondary institutions to offer new and innovative technology-based teacher preparation programs. Such programs would provide much-needed opportunities to those wishing to enter the teaching profession who are unable to take part in a traditional face-to-face teacher training program. In particular, there are opportunities to provide better access and equity to aspiring teachers living in rural and remote areas through online teacher education programs.

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