

# Teacher Education

## TEACHING CERTIFICATE

### What is the Teacher Education program (TEP)?

UFV's Teacher Education program is for students who have already earned a bachelor's degree and wish to become elementary school teachers. It is a 12-month program beginning each summer that provides professional development for elementary school pre-service teachers in a Kindergarten to Grade 7 module.

UFV is proud to offer its own locally developed Teacher Education program. This is an in-demand program that has grown steadily since it was introduced in May 2007.

The UFV program is composed of a combination of professional coursework and practicum experience in local schools. With this approach, student teachers are given ample opportunity to deeply engage with educational theory and its application to their own teaching practice. When student teachers successfully complete the program, they are recommended to the British Columbia College of Teachers to receive a BC Teaching Certificate.

The first students graduated from UFV's TEP program in 2008, with many starting their teaching careers in the Fraser Valley. TEP strives to plant the seeds for a critically-thinking citizenry.

Initially, the focus is on training teachers for the K-7 level, with plans to add a secondary option in 2010. The Teacher Education program is based on the Chilliwack campus.



*“It is our belief that teaching in schools is one of the most important, complex, and rewarding professions a person can have in our society.”*

— DR. PAUL ORLOWSKI,  
department head,  
UFV Teacher Education.

# Teacher Education



*“I love learning, and I love being a student. Since I can’t stay in school forever, the next best thing to me is to be a teacher because I know I’ll always be learning new things.”*

— KIMBERLY STANDEVEN, Teacher Education '08.

## WHAT DO I NEED TO GET INTO THE TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM?

You are eligible to apply while completing a bachelor’s degree that is acceptable to the B.C. College of Teachers. With the exception of EDUC 300, all specific prerequisite courses listed below must be completed one full semester before you begin the Teacher Education program.

- six credits of English, including three credit hours of composition and three credit hours of literature
- three credits of Canadian history
- three credits of Canadian geography
- four credits of Math for Elementary School Teachers
- four credits of an approved laboratory science course
- three credits in educational psychology
- four credits of Introduction to Best Practices in Teaching and Learning
- 18 credits at the upper level in teachable subject areas

If you have not completed the above requirements by the beginning of the program, you will not be considered. All applicants must meet the academic requirement of the B.C. College of Teachers for professional certification. While academic requirements are important, the admission committee will also assess your preparedness to become a teacher by looking at your particular talents, skills, volunteer work, and references.

It is highly recommended that applicants come to a TEP info session or make an appointment with the Education Advisor in TEP to ensure you have the most current information available.

## WHY TAKE TEACHER EDUCATION AT UFV?

There is a growing need for teachers in the Fraser Valley and this program has been developed for local schools and students. The program is unique in several ways. It has a focus on the people of the Fraser Valley. Student teachers will make connections with local school districts and may start their careers within local schools.

It will also place a strong emphasis on developing critically minded educators with a passion for social justice and a progressive outlook toward the future. We believe that teaching in our schools is one of most important and complex professions a person can have in today’s society and want to help prepare you thoroughly.

We have been able to tailor our program to suit the needs and trends of Fraser Valley elementary schools. When you graduate, you will know the particular focus and demands of the local school districts.

## IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW?

Admission to the TEP is on a competitive basis. As a prospective student, you should know that meeting the minimal requirements does not guarantee admission.

In addition to the academic requirements, the admissions committee will evaluate applications in the following areas:

- **Written assignment:** you must write a 500-word statement on your own philosophy of education. Details are enclosed in the TEP application package.
- **Work experience, talents, and skills:** you are required to have related experience working with children. Classroom volunteer work is strongly recommended. Certificates such as coaching, music, and first aid are reviewed in this area, along with languages spoken and travel experience.
- **Reference letters:** two confidential letters of reference, sealed and sent directly to the admissions office, are required to support your application.
- **Grade point average:** UFV will calculate grade-point average on the most recent two years of undergraduate coursework, including any post-degree studies. Applicants with a grade-point below a 2.8 on the 4.33 point scale will not be considered.

- **Academic preparation:** we welcome applicants with diverse backgrounds. Elementary teachers have to be competent in many subject areas and we recommend that applicants have preparation in numeracy (e.g. Math 205) and literacy skills. You can further enhance your preparation by taking courses from disciplines such as Cultural Anthropology, Visual Arts, Music, Theatre, Sociology, Modern Languages, Kinesiology/Physical Education, Linguistics, and Science.
- **Criminal record check:** all Fraser Valley school districts require a criminal record check before you can participate in your practica; therefore, you will complete a criminal record check administered by the TEP department.

## WHEN AND WHERE IS THE PROGRAM OFFERED?

UFV's Teacher Education program is offered at the Chilliwack campus. Currently, only an elementary teacher module is offered. The 12-month program starts in the summer semester and concludes at the end of the following summer semester.

## WILL I SPEND TIME IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS?

During your 12 months, you will participate in two practica. UFV faculty will select practicum sites within the Chilliwack, Abbotsford, Mission, and Fraser Cascade school districts.

## HOW MUCH DOES THE PROGRAM COST?

Our TEP consists of 55 credits. The total tuition fee for TEP is \$8,900, which will be spread over 12 months. You will also have to budget money for books, student fees, and transportation to practicum sites. There are additional student union fees which are charged each semester.

To take advantage of the many scholarships and grants available, visit the UFV Financial Aid and Awards office. Each year, this office facilitates the disbursement of about \$12 million in federal and provincial student loans, grants, bursaries, scholarships, and awards to UFV students. A helpful budget planning worksheet is available online at [www.ufv.ca/fineaid/budget](http://www.ufv.ca/fineaid/budget).

## I'M INTERESTED. WHAT SHOULD I DO NEXT?

It's best to check out our website at [www.ufv.ca/tep](http://www.ufv.ca/tep) and read the Teacher Education information carefully and then download the application forms. Fill out your application forms and submit them, along with the required documents and the \$45 application fee, to the Admissions and Records office at any UFV campus or centre.

You can also call our educational advisor Barbara Salingré at 604-792-0025, local 2442, to find out when our next information session will take place.

## WHEN SHOULD I APPLY?

If you want to start your studies in the summer, you should submit your application by January 31 of that year.

## CAN I SPEAK WITH SOMEONE ABOUT MY OPTIONS?

Absolutely. We want to hear from you! If you're unsure of your direction, contact Student Services at 1-888-504-7441 to connect with an educational advisor, or arrange for career counselling. If you need more information about the Teacher Education program, please consult the website at [www.ufv.ca/tep](http://www.ufv.ca/tep) or make an appointment with an educational advisor in Student Services in Abbotsford at 604-854-4528 or in Chilliwack at 604-795-2808.



## About UFV

Nestled in the beautiful Fraser Valley just east of Vancouver, in B.C., UFV is a fully accredited, public university that enrolls more than 11,000 students each year. UFV has campuses in Abbotsford, Chilliwack, and Mission and regional centres in Hope and Agassiz, and a growing presence in Chandigarh, India.

UFV is committed to exceptional post-secondary instruction and a nurturing learning environment. We are large enough to offer variety, yet small enough to offer the personal attention that our students need to thrive. Our small class sizes and focus on teaching allow our students to get to know their instructors and learn in a hands-on setting.

We offer more than 80 programs, including 13 bachelor's degrees, a master's degree, and more than a dozen trades and technology programs. We believe that anyone who wants to go to university should be given the chance, so our admission policies are flexible, and we provide university prep courses and high school completion options. There are many options for learning: full-time, in class, online, as part of a structured program or one tailored specifically to your interests.

Many of our programs "ladder" into one another, allowing students to keep their options open. Our international programming makes for a culturally diverse student body and great opportunities to study abroad, while our continuing studies offerings make learning a lifelong experience.

UFV is recognized nationally for student success, an excellent learning environment, creative integration of programming, and our work with our local communities.

Get to know us better at [www.ufv.ca](http://www.ufv.ca).



The information contained in this document is subject to change. Please refer to [www.ufv.ca/tep](http://www.ufv.ca/tep) for up-to-date information. UFV reserves the right to cancel courses and programs.

