

**UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING**  
**Report | Four Year Degree in Education**  
**From the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs**  
**October 1, 2015**

[Pursuant to Enrolled Act No. 56, Senate (2015) as recorded in the Session Laws of Wyoming, 2015 General Session, Chapter 142, Section 067, Footnote 14]

**To the Joint Appropriations Interim Committee and the Joint  
Education Interim Committee**

**Report | Four Year Degree in Education**

During the Sixty-Third Legislature of the State of Wyoming 2015 General Session, the Wyoming Legislature passed Enrolled Act No. 56, Senate (hereinafter SEA0056). SEA0056, Section 067, footnote 14 required:

14. The trustees of the University of Wyoming, in conjunction with the trustees of the northern Wyoming community college district and members of the Gillette college advisory board, shall assess opportunities and costs associated with establishing a four-year degree in elementary education at the northern Wyoming community college district, Gillette college campus. The university shall report to the joint appropriations interim committee and joint education interim committee no later than October 1, 2015 on the programmatic, facility, personnel and budgetary needs of such a program, potential sources of state and local revenue, projected enrollment and opportunities and challenges identified with curriculum and faculty integration.

Pursuant to SEA0056, the University of Wyoming initiated discussions with the Northern Wyoming Community College District (NWCCD) to assess opportunities and costs associated with establishing a four-year degree in elementary education at the NWCCD, Gillette college campus. Discussions have taken place between the VP for Academic Affairs at the NWCCD and the VP for Academic Affairs at the UW.

Preliminary information is provided below.

**Background:** Gillette College currently offers an Associate's degree in Elementary Education. It has been suggested that a demand exists for the upper division coursework that would lead to a 4-year Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education.

**Curricular Needs:** The department of Elementary Education at the University of Wyoming has provided an estimate of the additional coursework that would be required

beyond the Associate's degree to obtain the 4-year degree. The coursework required for years 3 and 4 are as follows:

Courses with a dedicated (Sheridan / Gillette only) section:

- EDST 3000 (Teacher as Practitioner)
- EDST 3550 (Educational Assessment)
- EDEL 3170 (Art in Elem School)
- EDEL 4109 (Elem Humanities Methods)
- EDEL 4309 (Elem Literacy Methods)
- EDEL 4409 (Elem Math/Sci Methods)

Other required coursework where students could join an existing section online:

- EDEC 4320 (Oral & Written Language Acquisition)
- HLED 2006 (Health for Elementary Educators)

The students will also need to have an area of concentration. Early Childhood Education would be the most straightforward to offer; additional sections of the following courses could be offered:

- EDEC 3000 (Observing Young Children)
- EDEC 3220 (School Program for Young Children)
- EDEC 2000 (Engaging Families in Early Childhood Settings)
- FCSC 2121 (Child Development)

It is assumed that the Gillette College will deliver the following. These most likely would be covered as part of the Associate's degree:

- 3 Math content courses
- 2 Elem math seminars
- 3 Science content courses
- 3 Elem science seminars
- All of the articulated foundations courses (EDST 2450, EDST 2480, EDEX 2484) – Articulation agreements are in place for these courses
- All of the University Studies Program requirements – which are most likely in place

The delivery of the curriculum could be implemented by following one of the following two models:

***Contractual Arrangement:*** A one-time sequence of the post-Associate's degree curriculum could be delivered by UW faculty on a contractual basis. History suggests that although there currently may be a high demand for this program, once the initial large cohort has completed the curriculum, there is no ongoing student demand. This has been the case at Western Wyoming Elementary Ed Program, NWCC Elementary Ed Program, and Casper College (where the current enrollments in Elem Ed courses are 2 students per course). The contractual approach would

address the immediate need without over-committing resources in the long term.

***Sustained Program at Gillette College:*** If Gillette College was to sustain an ongoing 4-year degree program, a series of faculty lines and adjunct faculty would be needed. It is estimated that at a minimum, 3 faculty lines would be required; 4 or 5 faculty lines might be more appropriate.

**Estimated Needs:** A preliminary assessment indicates the following minimum requirements for the program:

Facilities Estimates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Gillette College has classroom space available to accommodate a cohort of students. This could accommodate a sustained program at Gillette College. However, if UW faculty were to provide instruction, it is likely that more classroom and/or office space would be needed.</li> </ul>
Personnel Estimates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ For an ongoing program, Gillette College would need 3-5 faculty lines and several adjunct instructors.</li> <li>○ For a one-time (or on-demand) contractual arrangement, instructors would be compensated for each course taught.</li> </ul>
Budget Estimates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ongoing program at Gillette College: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 3-5 faculty (based on \$70,000 salary plus EPBs): \$305,000-\$508,000 annually</li> <li>▪ Adjunct instructors (paid \$6,000 per course taught): \$30,000-\$48,000 annually</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Contractual Arrangement with UW: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All instructors (paid \$6,000 per course taught): \$100,000 annually</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Other Estimated Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Costs associated with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ travel</li> <li>▪ instructional tech support</li> <li>▪ supplies</li> <li>▪ administrative costs, including admissions, NCATE data collection, analysis and reporting, student teaching and practica placements, supervision of students in field placements, etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ These other estimated costs would likely amount to over \$150,000 annually.</li> </ul>