If you love learning, if you like being with children or young adults, and if you enjoy challenges, consider the teaching profession. “Teachers as Reflective Decision Makers” is the organizing theme integrating the University of Jamestown Teacher Education Department’s mission, philosophy, belief statements, and goals. Our mission is to provide opportunities for students to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors that will allow them to deliver optimum learning experiences for diverse pupils in changing classroom environments.

Program Strengths
Our tradition is long-standing; we want to supply the best, not the most, teachers. University of Jamestown is firm in its commitment to continue that tradition of excellence. To meet that goal:

- We have rigorous general education and professional requirements.
- Opportunities are provided for students to work with professional educators at all levels and in many different settings.
- Students are kept apprised of current and upcoming changes with regard to legislation to accommodate changes.
- Classes are structured so that students, as pre-service teachers, will have many experiences with children and young adults throughout the curriculum.
- Class sizes are small, providing personal attention from professors and advisers.
- There is free-flowing interaction between students and faculty in and out of the classroom.
- Opportunities for international field experiences, including student teaching, are becoming available.

Student Snapshot
University of Jamestown prepares approximately 50 elementary and secondary teachers for licensure each year. Our education students score above the national average on the ACT test and have maintained grade point averages well above the general college population. We seek students who can face the demands and challenges of the teaching profession and who are well-prepared and confident that they will make an important difference in the lives of children and young adults.

Sponsored Organizations
Students are encouraged to join the Students of North Dakota United, a professional organization which exposes members to greater knowledge of their field and provides opportunities to meet other education students and professionals. Other organizations in early childhood education, reading, mathematics, and science also afford opportunities for participation.

Career Placement and Graduate School
Growing enrollments increase the need for new schools, qualified teachers, and money to fund education. The supply and demand curve for teachers appears to have met and crossed with pronounced shortages in many subject areas and geographic regions of the country.
The University of Jamestown Career Center assists with credential files for future employment in a variety of positions:

- Kindergarten through sixth grade teachers and junior/senior high level teachers - English, mathematics, science, and social studies
- coach
- librarian
- principal
- superintendent
- guidance counselor
- college professor
- dean of students
- college academic dean

Our graduates have attended graduate schools around the country:

- George Washington University
- Florida State University
- McCormick Theological Seminary
- University of North Dakota
- Pennsylvania State University
- Princeton Theological Seminary
- Montana State University
- University of Nebraska
- Arizona State University
- Brigham Young University

Special Needs Concentration
University of Jamestown developed a concentration in special needs to accentuate an already strong teacher education program. Students choosing this concentration have a wide variety of opportunities in the Jamestown area for field experiences:

- Anne Carlsten Center for Children
- Jamestown North (alternative high school)
- Special Needs Classes in Area Elementary Schools

A parent co-instructor in the Introduction to Teaching Students with Exceptionalities class helps students understand, from a parent’s point of view, the impact having a child with special needs has on the family.

A significant number of University of Jamestown graduates with the special needs concentration have been accepted into the Resident Teacher Program at the University of North Dakota, a master’s degree program in which students teach while earning their advanced degree and receiving mentoring in a classroom.

Faculty

Caroline Hagen, Ph.D.
Professor and department chair, coordinates pre-service/student teacher placement and supervision, teaches elementary, early childhood education content and methods courses, and graduate courses, contact person for Pi Lambda Theta International Honors Society in Education. Interests include educational research with emphasis on teaching and learning in special needs, global conservation issues and international educational systems.

Dina Laskowski, M.Ed.
Associate professor, teaches elementary curriculum, language arts, reading, social studies, and children’s literature; secondary reading in the content areas; elementary and secondary pre-service practicum students’ placements and student teaching supervision; she is adviser for the SNDU group.

LeAnn Nelson, Ed. D.
Associate professor and assistant department chair, teaches intro to teaching, young adult literature and instructional media and technology, and is the department assessor contact; background includes lobbying on educational issues and knowledge of the new K12 state assessment system.

Kristen Crabtree-Groff, Ed.D
Associate professor and director of the Master of Education Program, teaches courses in the Master of Education program, middle school, and English/Language Arts Secondary Methods courses. Teaching and research interests are focused on middle school students and teachers. Additional expertise in teaching and learning strategies, democratic learning environment, assessment, and program evaluation.

“THE TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM HAS PREPARED ME FOR ANY CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE I MAY FACE. WITH THE SMALL CLASS SIZES, YOU ARE ABLE TO GET PERSONAL ATTENTION FROM YOUR PROFESSORS, WHO HELP FRAME YOUR FUTURE IN THE TEACHING WORLD.” - Brett

University of Jamestown does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, sexual orientation, or other status with respect to which discrimination would be unlawful, in its programs and activities.