

Elementary Education

Liberal Studies



Your Path to Teaching Elementary School

Become a knowledgeable, caring, Christian educator through our rigorous, highly practical and professional program. You will learn from full-time professors with K-12 experience as you develop essential skills and attitudes to succeed as an elementary teacher. Westmont's stellar reputation opens doors for you to observe, teach, and invest in diverse schools across several grade levels. The Liberal Studies major develops strong expertise in content related to teaching language arts, science, social studies, physical education, art and music. Liberal studies majors also choose 10-12 units as a focus area or concentration. With careful planning and hard work, you can complete a B.A. and Teaching Credential in 4 or 5 years.

Secondary candidates major in art, English, history/social science, physical education/kinesiology, music, mathematics, the sciences (biology, chemistry, physics) and Spanish. Secondary candidates, with careful planning and hard work, can complete a B.A. and Teaching Credential in 4 or 5 years.

SELECTED COURSES

- Explorations in Teaching
- Perspectives on Cultural Diversity and Education
- Computers for the Classroom Teacher
- Language Acquisition
- Special Education for the Classroom Teacher
- Health Education for the Classroom Teacher

CAREER PATHS

Most liberal studies majors pursue a teaching credential and begin a career as an elementary school teacher.

Secondary credentials are offered in

- Art
- English
- History/Social Science
- Physical Education/Kinesiology
- Music
- Mathematics
- Science:
 - Biology
 - Chemistry
 - Physics
- Spanish



WESTMONT
SANTA BARBARA

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



SARAH HAWKINS, ED.D.

Sarah (Sally) Hawkins taught junior high English for 15 years and served as a reading intervention teacher for five years. She has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in education and literacy and is passionate about student wellbeing and school belonging.



CAROLYN MITTEN, PH.D.

Carolyn Mitten is a former mathematics teacher who has also taught a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses in education and mathematics. She enjoys helping her students foster a love of mathematics and deepen their assessment literacy.



ANDREW MULLEN, PH.D.

Andrew Mullen loves history, biology, literature and K-12 students. He has taught 4th and 5th grade as well as history, and is passionate about the history of education, curriculum and instruction.

OPPORTUNITIES ABROAD



- Westmont in Mexico
- Westmont in Northern Europe
- Westmont's Europe Semester
- Westmont's England Semester

ALUMNI

Nicole Aoki '20, Elementary: "My professors were able to cater to my individual needs as a student teacher, and they knew me well enough to pair me with a cooperating teacher who complemented my teaching style. Additionally, the courses I took during the credential program were relevant to what I experienced in student teaching. With extensive knowledge about the Common Core State Standards and with the practice of lesson planning during the credential program, I felt better prepared with the rest of my responsibilities in the classroom."

Kayla Monson '19, Elementary: "Westmont's Credential Program is rich in practical application, relevant teaching strategies, and in preparing teaching candidates for the realities of the classroom. During my credential year, I received hands-on tools and experience through my ED

courses, various field sites, observing my cooperating teachers, and through one-on-one mentoring from professors who observed and advised my teaching. One of the most meaningful aspects of my experience was completing the two-week take over in a 4th grade classroom. This was the best way to prepare me for what to expect as I entered a full-time teaching position. Westmont's teaching program was a wonderful blessing and I would highly recommend it to anyone seeking to become a teacher."

Kelly Vivanco '23: "The professors very intentionally invest in you not just as a student or future educator but as a whole person. I was deeply impacted not just by the way they taught me pedagogy but also in the way they inspired me in my core teaching philosophies."



WESTMONT