

Review your completed endorsement checklist and describe how your coursework has prepared you to teach in your intended endorsement area. For areas where you lack sufficient coursework, describe your plans for developing your knowledge in these areas, or life experiences that have provided equivalent content knowledge)

Elementary Education demands a deep understanding of basic foundational skills as well as a wide knowledge base across many different disciplines. My coursework in biological and physical sciences has prepared me to teach students about the scientific method as a structure for asking and answering questions, and assessing results with more objectivity. Children naturally experiment in an effort to understand the world around them, and even a basic understanding of the scientific method can help them achieve better reliability and insight from their results, in addition to helping them learn to ask "better" (more testable) questions. My coursework in math has helped me rethink the foundations of the basic mathematical operations, and gave me strategies and various models to teach as well as assess students' understanding. My math professor did an incredible job helping me see elementary math from a student's unfamiliar perspective once again, and I was grateful for the opportunity to remember the challenges our students are working with as well as deepen my own foundational understanding. Similarly, my children's literature coursework helped me consider what is important and engaging to students about any given book they may come in contact with, and how I can maximize what my students get out of the books I choose to bring to the classroom. I love to read, and my coursework gave me concrete tools to more effectively share that with my students. My politics, history, and economics classes have given me an understanding of how our civilization has come to be, and the interconnectedness of modern society and infrastructure. It is important to have this broader knowledge base about "how things work" to be able to simply explain connections to younger learners, as well as to identify what information and which skills will be most valuable to support students in becoming prepared, contributing members of our community. I am missing official coursework in the arts, but I have performed in more than ten full-length onstage productions, nearly all musical theater productions. I also have many years of choral and solo vocal jazz experience, and have provided backup vocals in live performance around the Portland area with musician Anna Diem. While I still lack formal coursework in grammar, I do hope to pursue more formal education in language structure in the future. I do have great interest in language and have formally studied Japanese for more than a decade, which has only fueled my fascination with syntax and language structure in both Japanese and English.