

ASU at Lake Havasu Graduates First (and Last!) Class of Education Students

ASU at Lake Havasu began offering a BAE in Elementary Education 5 years ago, and although the degree has now transferred to the statewide program, three ASU at Lake Havasu students persisted to graduation. Meet two of the Education Graduates and hear what they have to say about their experiences.

Allyssa Jebrail

I really enjoyed my time attending ASU Lake Havasu. Class sizes were always small, especially in my education courses. This made my voice feel heard in discussions and I felt closer to many of my professors. Additionally, the faculty has always been flexible and helpful during my education. Even though I ended up moving out of Lake Havasu for my last year, I was still able to stay enrolled with ASU Lake Havasu and avoid too many issues!

Teaching is important for the obvious reason that it prepares our next generations for their futures. Teaching should give kids the tools to succeed and excel in whatever path they choose in life. However, it is so much more. Students come to school from many backgrounds and past experiences. As an educator, I've learned that you have to meet each and every student where they are. This isn't an easy task, but I truly want to try my best for all students to enjoy their time in school, especially in math.

I completed my student teaching at Ashton Ranch Middle School in Surprise, Arizona. I was in an 8th-grade math class for the entirety of the 2022-2023 school year. While not every day was a cakewalk, I have had a blast this past year. Although my student teaching is over, I plan to still go to my students' promotion.

My student teaching experience has actually led to an opportunity for me at Ashton Ranch Middle School.

My mentor teacher is moving into counseling next year, and I will be taking her place as the school's 8th-grade math teacher. I have always wanted to teach math, and I already know the school, so I am quite ecstatic for my first year as a full teacher.

I would like to thank all my instructors. Each one of them was wonderful and helped to further my education. However, Jenna Lowder made me feel especially welcomed since my first day on campus. As my site lead, she was also always there throughout my journey to becoming an educator. I can safely say that my experience would not have been the same without her!



Allyssa Jebrail in her resident classroom at Ashton Ranch Middle School

Jennifer Jaimes Gomez

Teaching is an important profession because it provides an opportunity to enact change, for the greater good of our communities. As a first-generation Latina student, pursuing a degree in education means representation. Being a Latinx educator will allow students to see themselves represented in the classroom which can serve as a source of inspiration and motivation. Additionally, I can help all students to develop a deeper understanding and appreciation for the diversity of cultures and see the possibilities and opportunities that are available to them through education.

I really enjoyed my time at ASU Lake Havasu because I had the opportunity to learn in a small setting where I receive personalized support and feedback from instructors. Learning in an intimate environment made me feel comfortable to ask questions and to seek help. My student teaching placement varied by institution and grade level. During the fall term, I was originally placed in a Kindergarten classroom at Sunrise Elementary in Bullhead City. Midsemester, I transitioned to a third-grade classroom at the same institution. During the spring term, I transitioned to a new school, Desert Valley Elementary, and taught second-grade students.

My next step is to find an employment opportunity that will allow me to grow professionally and where I can learn new skills, take on new challenges, and advance my career.

I would like to express my gratitude to Christie Olsen, Christina Musselman, and Dr. Lowder for continuously providing me with support and encouragement throughout my journey as an educator. Thank you for always believing in me and motivating me to grow and develop my skills. Your guidance and mentorship were truly impactful, and I appreciate all that you have done for me.

