The University of Wisconsin–Madison Elementary Education Program prepares teachers to foster high academic achievement in all students—no matter who they are or what zipcode they were born into. In our program, teachers-to-be learn to recognize how their own backgrounds shape their thinking and actions, how racial hierarchies disserve all students, and how powerful teachers can change kids’ lives.

Schools are places that can both increase equity and perpetuate injustice, which are ideas our students tackle as they learn to navigate the challenges and joys of teaching. Our goal is for all our graduates to become teacher leaders committed to advancing justice through classroom practices, personal interactions and community engagement. We teach research-based practices that keep teachers growing throughout long careers.

At UW–Madison, our students learn to teach through exhilarating coursework, supervised fieldwork, community-based experiences, rigorous self-examination, and powerful and authentic learning experiences. We are training teachers to recognize, appreciate and value the wide range of gifts diverse students bring to our increasingly multicultural, globally connected and morally complex world.

**NEW CERTIFICATION OPTIONS STARTING FALL, 2022!**

Beginning in the fall of 2022, the Elementary Education Program will look quite different from its current structure. In response to changes by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI), new certification options have been created that will certify students to teach in the grade levels of K-9, K-12, and/or Early Childhood (approximately birth through age 8). These new certification options will give students more choices as they plan their career paths.

As part of the restructuring, new courses were developed and all certification options were designed to be completed in four semesters. These changes align well with the priorities of the School of Education’s Teacher Pledge ([https://tec.education.wisc.edu/teacher-pledge/](https://tec.education.wisc.edu/teacher-pledge/)) program. In its final stages of approval, this restructuring has provided an opportunity for the program to refocus on its social justice mission.

Effective with fall, 2022 program admission, the Elementary Education Program will offer five options. Admitted students begin a four-semester professional sequence in the fall.

- **Kindergarten through Ninth Grade (Single Certification)** - Students completing this certification option successfully are certified to teach in kindergarten through ninth grade classrooms.

- **Kindergarten through Ninth Grade and English as a Second Language K-12 (Dual Certification)** - Students who complete this certification option successfully are certified in the general education of grades kindergarten through ninth grade and in English as a Second Language for grades kindergarten through twelfth grade.

- **Kindergarten through Ninth Grade and Early Childhood Education (Dual Certification)** - Students who complete this certification option successfully are certified in the general education of grades kindergarten through ninth grade and in Early Childhood Education (approximately birth through age 8).

- **Kindergarten through Ninth Grade and Special Education K-12 (Dual Certification & Major)** - Students completing this option successfully are double majors in Elementary Education and Special Education. Students are certified in general education for grades kindergarten through ninth grade, and Special Education grades kindergarten through twelfth.

- **Kindergarten through Ninth Grade, Early Childhood Education, and English as a Second Language K-12 (Triple Certification)** - In this certification option, successful students receive certification in three areas: general education for grades kindergarten through ninth grade, Early Childhood Education, and English as a Second Language in grades kindergarten through twelfth.

Course requirements vary by certification option, so students should consult with their Student Services advisors often.


**CURRENT PROGRAM OPTIONS**

- **Early Childhood/English as a Second Language** - Students in this program option are certified in Early Childhood and also in English as a Second Language at the Early Childhood level.

- **Middle Childhood–Early Adolescence/English as a Second Language** - Students completing this program option successfully are certified in Elementary Education and in English as a Second Language, both at the Middle Childhood–Early Adolescence levels.

- **Middle Childhood–Early Adolescence/Special Education program** - Students are certified in Special Education and Elementary Education, both at the Middle Childhood–Early Adolescence levels.

- **Middle Childhood–Early Adolescence/Content Focused Minor program** - Students completing this program option successfully are certified in Elementary Education and also in one of four broad areas (social studies, mathematics, science or language arts) reflecting the subject area of the minor. Both certifications are at the Middle Childhood–Early Adolescence level.

Formal definitions of Early Childhood and Middle Childhood–Early Adolescence levels are determined by each school district based on the organizational structure of its schools and the philosophy and needs of the district.

**HOW TO GET IN**

**PROGRAM ADMISSION OVERVIEW**

Students are admitted to the program once a year, effective in the summer. Selection is made the previous spring and students begin a four-semester professional sequence in the subsequent fall semester.
ENTERING THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

NEW AND CURRENT UW–MADISON STUDENTS

New freshmen and transfer students interested in Elementary Education are admitted directly to the School of Education with a "pre-professional" classification. This classification indicates that a student is interested in a program offered by the school, but has not applied and been admitted to the professional program. Students interested in Elementary Education receive the "pre-professional" classification of PRE.

On-campus students wishing to be admitted to the school while working on eligibility requirements and application can apply for admission to the school by completing a Pre-Professional Application (http://www.education.wisc.edu/soe/academics/undergraduate-students/academic-program-admission/). A minimum GPA of 2.5, based on UW–Madison coursework, is required to transfer into the school. This GPA may be modified by the Last 60 Credits rule (detailed below (p. 2)). It is not necessary to be a "pre-professional" student before applying to a professional program.

It is strongly recommended that students interested in a School of Education program meet with an academic advisor in the School of Education Student Services office, 139 Education Building, 1000 Bascom Mall. Students may call 608-262-1651 to schedule an appointment with an advisor.

PROSPECTIVE TRANSFER STUDENTS

Applicants not already enrolled on the UW–Madison campus must be admissible to the university to enroll in a School of Education program. Admission to UW–Madison requires a separate application and admission process. See UW–Madison Office of Admissions and Recruitment (http://admissions.wisc.edu) for application information. Prospective transfer students are strongly advised to meet with an advisor in the School of Education Student Services office in advance of their application; to schedule, call 608-262-1651.

STUDENTS WITH A PREVIOUS DEGREE

Prospective applicants who already hold an undergraduate degree are strongly encouraged to meet with an advisor in the School of Education Student Services office in advance of their application. Consultations with advisors are available in person or via telephone; to schedule, call 608-262-1651.

Applicants who already hold an undergraduate degree are admitted to the School of Education as either an Education Special student or a second degree student, depending on their interests and academic background. Admission as an Education Special student indicates that the student has an interest in pursuing certification in a subject area studied during the initial degree; another degree is not awarded for this "certification only" coursework. Second degree students are seeking a second, unrelated degree from the School of Education, which may, or may not, include teacher certification. Candidates for limited enrollment programs must meet all admission eligibility requirements for the program and must compete with the eligible applicants for program admission. More information is available here (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/#policiesandregulations/text).

APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

Certification to teach Elementary Education requires that a student be admitted into the professional part of the degree program. Admission into the Elementary Education program occurs once a year, effective for summer following selection. The program has recently been able to accommodate all qualified applicants. If the number of qualified applicants exceeds program resources for any admission period, admission will become limited and competitive.

The Elementary Education program faculty selects candidates based on a variety of criteria. Each option has its own selection committee and only reviews applications to that option. In particular they seek individuals who can demonstrate academic competence, multicultural and interpersonal competence, and reflective competence.

PROGRAM ADMISSION ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Requirements and selection criteria may be modified from one application/admission period to the next. Potential applicants should consult the School of Education’s Undergraduate Admissions page for application deadlines and detailed information regarding current eligibility requirements and selection criteria prior to submitting an application.

To be eligible for admission to the professional program, applicants must:

• determine which of the four program options are of interest. Applicants may apply to a maximum of two options.
• submit completed program application form(s), transcripts, and all other related application materials by the application deadline specified on the School of Education’s Undergraduate Admissions page.
• successfully complete at least 40 transferable college-level credits by the end of the fall semester before application.
• complete RP & SE 300 Individuals with Disabilities by the end of the summer before beginning the program if applying to the MC–EA/Special Education Dual Major option.
• While GPA is a factor in the selection process, no minimum is required to apply for program admission. If admitted, students must earn the minimum cumulative GPA for UW–Madison coursework established by the program and the School of Education each semester after admission.
• In previous years, applicants to teacher education programs were required to submit scores from one of the following exams: ACT, SAT, Praxis I/PPST, Praxis Core, or GRE. Under emergency rules announced by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, no applicants need to submit scores for any exam as a component of their application to this program. The exam requirement was officially removed by the School of Education on November 15, 2017.
• The Last 60 Credits Rule

For programs requiring a minimum GPA to apply, two grade point averages will be calculated to determine candidates’ eligibility to programs. GPAs will be calculated using

• all transferable college level coursework attempted, and
• the last 60 credits attempted.

The higher GPA of these two will be used for purposes of determining eligibility. If fewer than 60 credits have been attempted, all credits will be used to calculate the GPA. Graded
graduate coursework will also be used in all GPA calculations. ("Attempted" coursework indicates coursework for which a grade has been earned.) More information regarding this rule is available here (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/#policiesandregulations).

PROGRAM ADMISSION SELECTION CRITERIA

The Elementary Education program admissions procedures are intended to result in an academically qualified student body that is diverse in terms of both academic strengths and life experiences and has a commitment to providing the best possible education to elementary and middle school students. Having students with diverse life experiences, backgrounds and attitudes is critical if faculty are to prepare students to teach in schools that themselves have diverse enrollments. Faculty will accept only those students judged to have the potential to be successful in the academically challenging Elementary Education Program. In making admissions decisions, no factor will outweigh judgment that a particular applicant’s credentials, taken as a whole, represent unacceptably high academic risk.

The Admissions Committee will take the following into consideration when making admissions decisions:

Academic Competence
The Mission Statement of the Elementary Education Area points to the role that our graduates have in creating academically rigorous classrooms that lead to high academic achievement in all students. For elementary and middle schools to promote academic achievement, elementary and middle school teachers must have demonstrated high levels of success in core disciplines throughout their university studies. Therefore, program faculty expect that students admitted to the program will have demonstrated high levels of academic preparation.

Multicultural and Interpersonal Competencies
The Elementary Education program’s mission is to prepare teachers who are able to promote academic achievement in all elementary-school and middle-school students. This includes those from diverse races, cultures, language backgrounds, family forms, and sexual orientations, as well as those from diverse economic, gender, and ability groups. The program faculty seek prospective teachers who will demonstrate both commitment to this mission and the prospect of contributing to it. The Admissions Committee will therefore examine the materials from each candidate for evidence of such commitment and prospect.

Reflective Competence
To have performed at high academic levels or to have had diverse life experiences is not adequate for admissions purposes unless these are accompanied by evidence that the applicant has been able to reflect on and learn from them. Demonstration of reflective competence is important as it likely contributes to one’s interpersonal skills as well as to the qualities such as integrity, social awareness, and cultural sensitiveness that are qualities of a well-rounded human being who will be an excellent elementary or middle school teacher. The ability to reflect on one’s life experiences is one factor that will allow the Admissions Committee to look for evidence that our students will be reflective practitioners who evaluate the effects of their assumptions, choices, and actions on others (students, parents, and other professionals in the learning community) and who will actively seek out opportunities to grow professionally.

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is required by law to conduct a background check on each applicant for a Wisconsin educator license. This check is intended to determine if the applicant has engaged in any behavior that endangers the health, welfare, safety or education of PK–12 pupils. Local school districts also will conduct criminal background checks routinely on teacher education students prior to the start of in-classroom field work. Admitted applicants to any teacher education program who have a positive background check should confer with the Academic Dean’s Office (Room 139 Education, 1000 Bascom Mall) about the potential impact of this on field placements and licensure.

An individual who is deemed ineligible to participate in field or clinical experiences based on the results of their background check may not be able to complete the requirements for their degree or certification. Students with questions about these processes should contact the academic dean in the School of Education Student Services office.

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduates) section of the Guide.

General Education
- Breadth—Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits
- Breadth—Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits
- Breadth—Social Studies: 3 credits
- Communication Part A & Part B *
- Ethnic Studies *
- Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B *

* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION LIBERAL STUDIES REQUIREMENTS

All students are required to complete a minimum of 40 credits of Liberal Studies (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/#requirements) coursework. This requirement provides an opportunity to do some academic exploration beyond the scope of the major. Students take courses in areas of particular interest and also have an opportunity to sample the wide selection of courses offered across the university. Coursework is required in humanities, social studies, science,
and cultural and historical studies. Some elective coursework is also needed to reach the required number of credits.

The School of Education's Liberal Studies Requirements automatically satisfy most of the University General Education Requirements outlined above, including ethnic studies, humanities/literature, social studies, and science. Students pursuing most School of Education degree programs may also complete Communication Part B, Quantitative Reasoning Part A, and Quantitative Reasoning Part B through courses required by their degree program. If a student cannot complete a General Education Requirement within the curriculum of their chosen School of Education program, academic advisors can offer suggestions for courses that meet the requirement and augment the student’s primary area of study.

A basic outline of the liberal studies is included below. Students must consult the detailed version of the requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/#requirementstext) for information about course selection and approved course options.

**Humanities, 9 credits**
All students must complete a minimum of 9 credits to include:
- Literature
- Fine Arts
- Humanities Electives

**Social Studies (Social Science)**
All students must complete a minimum of 9 credits. Teacher certification programs and Kinesiology: Exercise and Movement Science have unique requirements in this category.

**Science**
All students must complete a minimum of 9 credits to include:
- Biological Science
- Physical Science
- Laboratory Science
- Science Electives

**Cultural and Historical Studies**
All students must complete three requirements (9 credits) met by separate courses. Any of these courses can also be used to meet the Humanities or Social Studies (Social Sciences) requirements if it has the relevant breadth designation.
- Ethnic Studies
- U.S./European History
- Global Perspectives

Complete Liberal Studies Electives (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/#requirementstext) to total 40 Credits.

**PROGRAM STRUCTURE**

Students of Elementary Education:

- Study teaching methods and gain experience in schools through supervised field placements during their four-semester professional sequence.
- Complete elective coursework to reach the minimum of 120 credits required for the degree.

**Practicum experiences** provide a school-based setting for students to develop their professional and classroom skills. These experiences generally begin a few weeks after the start of the semester and are approximately nine weeks in length. Students will usually spend three half-days at their assigned schools. Concurrent registration in the methods courses provides students with an opportunity to learn about, and then apply, teaching techniques in a classroom.

The **full-semester student teaching assignment** is the capstone experience of the professional sequence. Through it students expand upon the activities, responsibilities and expectations encountered during the practicum experiences. Student teachers will function as regular staff members in their assigned schools and also attend a seminar on campus one afternoon each week. Student teachers are required to follow the school day, school calendar, vacation days and policies of the school where they work.
• ELEMENTARY EDUCATION: EARLY CHILDHOOD/ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (HTTP://GUIDE.WISC.EDU/UNDERGRADUATE/EDUCATION/CURRICULUM-INSTRUCTION/ELEMENTARY-EDUCATION-BSE/ELEMENTARY-EDUCATION-EARLY-CHILDHOOD-ENGLISH-SECOND-LANGUAGE-BSE/)


ELECTIVE COURSEWORK

Complete additional courses as necessary to reach the minimum of 120 credits required for the degree.

GPA AND OTHER GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS—REQUIRED FOR ALL PROGRAM OPTIONS

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students must complete all requirements and also obtain the endorsement of the program faculty to receive certification through UW–Madison. The State of Wisconsin requires that anyone wishing to teach in a public K–12 setting hold a valid teaching license issued through the Department of Public Instruction. In addition to completing a certification program, students must submit a separate application for this license. Requirements below are based on UW–Madison coursework.

• 2.5 cumulative grade point average. This may be modified by the Last 60 Credits Rule (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/policiesandregulationstext).
• 2.75 cumulative grade point average across all professional education courses (excluding practicum and student teaching).
• 2.75 cumulative grade point average in the major.
• 2.75 cumulative grade point average in the minor, if required.
• Minimum 120 credits (degree candidates only).
• Major residency: Degree candidates must complete at least 15 credits of upper-level major coursework (numbered 300–699) in residence on the UW–Madison campus.
• Senior residency: Degree candidates must complete their last 30 credits in residence on the UW–Madison campus. Student teaching and practicum are considered part of the 30 credits.

DEGREE AUDIT REPORTING SYSTEM (DARS)

UW–Madison uses “DARS” to document a student’s progress toward the completion of their degree, including any additional majors and certificates. A DARS (Degree Audit Reporting System) report shows all the requirements for completing a degree and, against courses that are planned or completed, shows the requirements that have been met, and those that are unmet. A report can offer suggestions about courses that may be taken to meet specific requirements and can assist in the academic planning and enrollment process. Students can access a DARS report in the Course Search & Enroll app or Student Center via My UW.

DARS also has a “what-if” function. This feature makes it possible to request a DARS report as if pursuing another program, major or certificate. It is an excellent tool if considering a new or additional area of study. School of Education students in a pre-professional classification such as Pre-Elementary (PRE), or Pre-Kinesiology should request a "what if" DARS report of their professional program of interest.

More information on how to request a DARS report is available on the registrar's website (https://registrar.wisc.edu/dars-student/).

DARS is not intended to replace student contact with academic advisers. It creates more time in an advising appointment to discuss course options, research opportunities, graduate school, or issues of personal interest or concern to students.

DARS is used as the document of record for degree program, major and certificate completion in the School of Education.

ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLYING FOR A LICENSE

In addition to completing UW–Madison’s program requirements, students must also complete Wisconsin statutory requirements and certification requirements established by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. Many of these requirements are embedded within the program’s requirements and require no additional attention. The endorsement of the program coordinator/faculty is also required to receive certification through UW–Madison.

The State of Wisconsin requires that anyone wishing to teach in a public K–12 setting hold a valid teaching license issued through the Department of Public Instruction. In addition to completing a certification program, students must submit a separate application for this license.

Detailed information about certification requirements and applying for a license is available under Certification/Licensure. (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/curriculum-instruction/elementary-bse/#certificationlicensuretext)
UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Total Degree  To receive a bachelor's degree from UW-Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.

Residency  Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW-Madison. "In residence" means on the UW-Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. "In residence" credit also includes UW-Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW-Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.

Quality of Work  Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Create and implement developmentally appropriate and challenging learning experiences that reflect high expectations for every learner, supporting learners to (1) develop deep understanding of content areas and their connections, and (2) apply understanding in meaningful ways.

2. Select and/or create and sequence individually supportive and challenging learning experiences that reflect knowledge of individual learners, curriculum, pedagogies, and relevance to all learners and their families.

3. Use a variety of teaching strategies, and evidence-based technologies and information resources to engage learners in meaningful learning activities that lead to content knowledge, critical thinking, creativity, innovation, self-evaluation, and self-directed learning. Use evidence to continually evaluate the effectiveness of these practices, and adjust these as needed to improve learner outcomes.

4. Collaborate with others to create supportive, inclusive, linguistically responsive, and safe learning environments that help all learners meet high standards and reach their full potential.

5. Choose, modify, and/or create multiple forms of unbiased formative and summative assessments to measure each learner's progress toward instructional goals. Use assessment data gathered to respond to each learner's strengths and needs in relation to short and long-term goals. Reflect on and justify planning decisions and ground one's justifications in knowledge of learners, development, curriculum, pedagogies, and resources.

6. Use studies completed in science and mathematics, social sciences, the humanities, histories, languages, and the arts to inform and deepen their teaching of content areas and meeting learners' needs.

FOUR-YEAR PLAN

ADVISING AND CAREERS

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION ADVISING

Students not yet admitted to Elementary Education meet with their assigned advisor in the School of Education Student Services office, see below. Students are assigned an additional departmental advisor when admitted to the professional component of their degree program.

GENERAL SCHOOL OF EDUCATION ADVISING

Dedicated to supporting and promoting student success, the School of Education Student Services (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/#resourcetext) office coordinates a number of student-related services for prospective and current School of Education students in all programs. Student Services staff offer support in academic advising, career advising, mentoring and advocacy for underrepresented and international students, requirements monitoring, interpreting academic policy, and more. Students in the School of Education are encouraged to make Student Services a vital part of their academic and employment journey.

To schedule an appointment: Call 608-262-2651, email soeacademicservices@education.wisc.edu, or stop by 139 Education Building when the office reopens. Current students can schedule an appointment online through the Starfish app (https://advising.wisc.edu/facstaff/starfish/starfish-student-resources/) in MyUW.

CAREER ADVISING IN THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

The School of Education Career Center provides students with the knowledge needed for connecting their classroom experiences with real-world application. Through individual appointments, events, and online resources, the Career Center provides students and alumni with the tools needed to be successful in their career development. From building resumes, conducting job and internship searches, developing interview skills, and negotiation strategies, the Career Center provides a foundation for developing the essential skills for the ever-changing world of work.

Students can set up their profile on Handshake (https://app.joinhandshake.com/login/), the campus online career management system, to find open internships, jobs, and career events.

Current School of Education students can make an appointment with a Career and Internship Advisor by logging into Starfish (https://wisc.starfishsolutions.com/starfish-ops/) from the MyUW dashboard and selecting a day and time that works best with their schedule.

School of Education Alumni can schedule an appointment by completing the appointment request form (http://bit.ly/CCAppt/). For more information, visit the School of Education Career Center website (https://careercenter.education.wisc.edu/) or reach out at career-center@education.wisc.edu.
Information about faculty, staff, and other contributors to the Department of Curriculum and Instruction can be found on the department's website. (http://ci.education.wisc.edu/)

CERTIFICATION/LICENSURE

ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Note: In August of 2018, the Department of Public Instruction issued new administrative rules governing educator licensing. Changes in certification requirements and also the license types and levels will occur as program areas implement the new requirements.

Students must complete all requirements and also obtain the endorsement of the program faculty to receive certification through UW-Madison. These requirements include those required by UW-Madison, the Department of Public Instruction, and those mandated by state statutes. While most of these requirements are embedded in course content, some (e.g., the Wisconsin Foundations of Reading Test) are not related to course enrollment.

Students pursuing certification should be aware of the following requirements. See the Teacher Education Center website (https://tec.education.wisc.edu/) for additional information/requirements.

Certification requirements should be monitored carefully. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) periodically implements regulations that affect all certification programs; teacher certification candidates are responsible for having up-to-date information about certification requirements.

Disclosure Statement and Criminal Background Investigation

Disclosure Statement
Applicants to School of Education programs that involve a practicum, internship, or other field placement must complete a disclosure statement indicating (1) whether they have been admitted to, then withdrawn from, asked to withdraw from, or been dropped from a student teaching, clinical experience, or other intern/practicum program, and (2) if they have ever been placed on probation or disciplined by any college or university for academic dishonesty.

Criminal Background Investigation (CBI)
The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is required by law to conduct a background check on each applicant for a Wisconsin educator license. This check is intended to determine if the applicant has engaged in any behavior that endangers the health, welfare, safety, or education of PK–12 pupils. Local school districts also will conduct criminal background checks routinely on teacher education students prior to the start of in-classroom fieldwork.

Students should be aware that criminal background checks may be initiated by other agencies or organizations when they are seeking employment or a professional license. School administrators have the authority to determine the appropriateness of a student placement and may choose not to permit a placement based on a student's background check results.

An individual who has been deemed ineligible to participate in field or clinical experiences based on the results of their background check may not be able to complete the requirements for their degree or certification. Students with questions about these processes should contact the Teacher Education Center, tec@education.wisc.edu.

Environmental Education
This licensing requirement is mandatory for all UW-Madison students in Elementary Education, Secondary Science and Secondary Social Studies certification programs. Students with previous degrees in their subjects must also monitor and complete this requirement for certification and licensure.

Depending on the program area, students meet this requirement through their methods courses or by taking an environmental studies course.

Student Teaching and Assessment
Students in teacher education programs are required to complete a significant performance assessment prior to certification and eventual licensure. This assessment demonstrates the candidate's preparedness to teach. Until recently, the edTPA was the required assessment tool; it is no longer the only option. Additional tests may also be required, although this varies by certification area.

Detailed information related to these requirements, along with fee and registration information can be found on the Teacher Education Center website; see the Exams section of Become a Teacher (https://tec.education.wisc.edu/become-a-teacher/). A brief description of these tests and assessments is provided below.

Content Proficiency
Students completing professional education programs must demonstrate proficiency in their content area. This is accomplished a number of ways, varying by certification area. For example, Elementary Education students must have a major GPA of 3.0. World Language Education students must have a 3.0 in their major or minor area, meet an ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview requirement, and also pass the ACTFL Writing Proficiency Test (WPT). A student may be required to take and pass an approved examination in their content area, usually the appropriate Praxis II: Subject Assessments/ Specialty Area Tests through the Educational Testing Service (ETS).

Wisconsin Foundations of Reading Test
As of January 31, 2014, individuals seeking an initial Wisconsin license to teach in kindergarten through grade 5 or in special education, an initial Wisconsin license as a reading teacher, or an initial Wisconsin license as a reading specialist, must take and pass the Wisconsin Foundations of Reading Test. Students in Special Education have an additional portfolio option that can be used as a substitute for the W Fort. Undergraduate programs impacted by this requirement are Elementary Education and Special Education.
This test is for Wisconsin licensing purposes only. Students who choose not to pursue Wisconsin educator licensing need not take and pass this test.

Teacher Performance Assessment (edTPA)
Until recently, students were required to pass the edTPA to be recommended for licensure. Students may still elect to use it as an assessment tool, but it is no longer required. The edTPA is a subject area-specific, performance-based assessment for pre-service teacher candidates, which is centered on student learning. Evidence of candidate teaching proficiency in the areas of planning, engagement and instruction, and assessment is drawn from a subject-specific learning segment, 3–5 lessons from a unit of instruction. Assessment artifacts include video clips of instruction, lesson plans, student work samples, analysis of student learning, and reflective commentaries. These artifacts will be taken together and scored by trained evaluators using the standardized set of edTPA rubrics.

Field Experiences
School-based field experiences are a critical part of students’ professional preparation for teaching. Under Wisconsin State regulations, students seeking teaching certification from UW–Madison are required to complete at least one pre-service teaching practicum and at least one full semester of student teaching. Most programs at UW–Madison require students to complete additional field experiences.

Pre–Student Teaching Practicum
The pre–student teaching practicum gives students firsthand knowledge of the classroom environment and the teacher’s role. For many students, the practicum is the initial encounter with the real world of teaching. Practicum students do not assume the degree of classroom responsibility they do during student teaching. Under the supervision of an experienced teacher, practicum students observe classroom activities, assist the teacher with day-to-day classroom management tasks, interact one-to-one with students, and instruct small groups. The cooperating teacher and university supervisor use the practicum to assess the student’s readiness for the student teaching experience.

Student Teaching Experience
Student teaching, the culminating field experience, is a full-time, school district semester assignment that places a university student under the guidance of an experienced, qualified cooperating teacher. After an orientation period, the student teacher gradually assumes more responsibility for planning, instruction, and overall classroom management. Student teachers follow the daily schedule of the cooperating teacher and the building policies of the school, and function as regular staff members in arrival and departure times and attendance at school events.

The student teaching experience follows the calendar of the local school district. A fall semester assignment will typically begin the latter part of August and end the latter part of January. A spring semester assignment will begin the latter part of January and end mid-June. Holiday breaks follow the school district calendar. Carrying other formal course work during the student teaching semester is strongly discouraged.

Detailed policies and regulations regarding field experiences can be found on the Teacher Education Center website (https://tec.education.wisc.edu/resources/). Students and staff are responsible for knowing and complying with the Field Experience policies. Many professional programs have their own separate handbooks and specific policies; students are also responsible for those policies and procedures.

Withdrawing From/Failing Field Experience Assignments
Withdrawing from a field experience has serious implications for the student’s progress in the program. Students who withdraw or receive an unsatisfactory grade (including a “D”) from a field experience may not repeat such experiences without approval from the program coordinator. Students withdrawing from or receiving an unsatisfactory grade in field experiences in one major or program may not enroll in another major or program without written permission from the program coordinator. Because of the consequences that withdrawal from a confirmed assignment may have on a student’s future progress in the teaching certification program, a student who contemplates such action is strongly urged to consult with the program coordinator to fully understand the implications of such action and the options available.

Minority Group Relations and Conflict Resolution

Minority Group Relations
Wisconsin State teacher education regulations require students to complete a section titled Minority Group Relations. The rules identify Minority Group Relations as

- The history, culture, and tribal sovereignty of American Indian tribes and bands located in Wisconsin.
- The history, culture and contributions of women and various racial, cultural, language and economic groups in the United States.
- The philosophical and psychological bases of attitude development and change.
- The psychological and social implications of discrimination, especially racism and sexism in the American society.
- Evaluating and assessing the forces of discrimination, especially racism and sexism on faculty, students, curriculum, instruction, and assessment in the school program.
- Minority group relations through direct involvement with various racial, cultural, language and economic groups in the United States.

UW–Madison teacher education programs address these areas through course work and experiences in each professional education program. Students who successfully complete their professional program will have satisfied each of the areas of Minority Group Relations.

Conflict Resolution Requirement
Wisconsin State teacher education regulations require all individuals pursuing teacher certification to have formal training in conflict resolution. This includes

- Resolving conflicts between pupils and between pupils and school staff.
- Assisting pupils in learning methods of resolving conflicts between pupils and between pupils and
school staff, including training in the use of peer mediation to resolve conflicts between pupils.

- Dealing with crises, including violent, disruptive, potentially violent or potentially disruptive situations that may arise in school or activities supervised by school staff as a result of conflicts between pupils or between pupils and other persons.

All teacher certification programs include conflict resolution training in their required course work.

Phonics

As of July 1, 1998, the State of Wisconsin requires that all persons seeking initial and renewal licenses to teach reading or language arts in grades Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 6 (PK–6) must have successfully completed instruction in teaching reading and language arts using appropriate instructional methods, including phonics. “Phonics” means a method of teaching beginners to read and pronounce words by learning the phonetic value of letters, letter groups and syllables.

The Phonics requirement applies to students completing Elementary Education and Special Education certification programs. UW–Madison students fulfill this requirement through the successful completion of courses that are already required, so no additional course work is needed to meet this statutory requirement.

Cooperatives

This licensing requirement is mandatory for secondary Social Studies Education certification. Students with previous degrees in their subjects must also monitor and complete this requirement for certification and licensure.

Students typically complete the cooperatives requirement after being admitted to the Secondary Social Studies program and should consult with the program coordinator regarding its completion.

Teacher Standards

UW–Madison teacher education students must meet all state licensing requirements for initial teaching certification in Wisconsin. These requirements, sometimes referred to as administrative rules “PI 34,” mandate that individuals demonstrate proficiency on state-approved teaching standards. Each teacher education institution in Wisconsin has adopted a set of teacher education standards that meet state guidelines. These standards must be met by all students completing a licensing program.


Applying for a Teaching License

The State of Wisconsin requires that anyone wishing to teach in a public K–12 setting hold a valid teaching license issued through the Department of Public Instruction. In addition to completing a certification program, students must submit a separate application for this license. Students intending to complete a teacher certification program should monitor program requirements carefully. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) periodically implements regulations that affect all certification programs; teacher certification candidates are responsible for having up-to-date information about certification requirements.

Licensing Levels

The following licensing options are offered at UW–Madison.

- The Elementary Education program currently offers two licensing levels: Early Childhood and also Middle Childhood through Early Adolescence. The new licensing levels will be Early Childhood and also Kindergarten through Grade 9.
- The Special Education program currently certifies students at both the Middle Childhood through Early Adolescence level and also at the Early Adolescence through Adolescence level. The Special Education/Elementary Education dual major option certifies students only at the Middle Childhood through Early Adolescence level.
- Secondary Education programs currently certify students to teach their subject area at the Early Adolescence through Adolescence level. The new licensing level will be Grades 4 through 12.
- Students currently completing Language Education programs will be licensed at the Early Childhood through Adolescence level. The new licensing level will be Prekindergarten through Grade 12.
- Students in special fields such as Art, Communication Sciences and Disorders, Music, and Physical Education are currently licensed at the Early Childhood through Adolescence level. The new licensing level will be Prekindergarten through Grade 12.

Wisconsin State Licensing

The State of Wisconsin issues an initial teaching license to certified teachers. The current fee is $125. An online license application is available through the Department of Public Instruction (http://dpi.wi.gov/tepdl/elo/). A Criminal Background Investigation (CBI) will also be conducted by DPI. Information about fingerprint submission, when necessary, is available through the Department of Public Instruction (http://dpi.wi.gov/tepdl/licensing/fingerprint/electronic-submission/).

Before applying for a license, DPI requires the electronic submission of “Endorsed Candidate for Licensure” (ECL) data by the certifying officer of the institution where the teacher preparation was completed. For UW–Madison teacher certification students, the endorsement will come from the School of Education, 139 Education Building, 1000 Bascom Mall. Once this information has been submitted to DPI, students are notified by email that they may begin the application online.

Before endorsing a student, UW–Madison requires that (1) all certification requirements are met; (2) student teaching (following the school district calendar) is completed; (3) final grades are posted and reviewed; (4) the degree is "posted" by the registrar's office (four to five weeks after graduation); and (5) a recommendation for certification is received from
the program faculty. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction may require an additional 6 to 12 weeks for license processing.

**Licensing Outside of Wisconsin**

To apply for a license in a state other than Wisconsin, first check out the application requirements of that state. The University of Kentucky has a website [https://education.uky.edu/accreditation/certification/states/](https://education.uky.edu/accreditation/certification/states/) that provides links to teacher licensing agencies in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Many states have a verification form that needs to be signed by a UW–Madison certification officer. This form verifies that a state-approved licensing program has been completed. These forms should be sent to the School of Education Student Services Office at 139 Education Building, 1000 Bascom Mall, or by email (mlpatton@wisc.edu) to be completed. If the form requests information about practicum and student teaching assignments (names of schools, grade levels, dates, etc.), this information must be completed before sending the form to Student Services.

**PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION/LICENSE DISCLOSURE (NC-SARA)**

The United States Department of Education requires institutions that provide distance education to disclose information for programs leading to professional certification or licensure about whether each program meets state educational requirements for initial licensure or certification. Following is this disclosure information for this program:

**The requirements of this program meet Certification/Licensure in the following states:**

Wisconsin

**The requirements of this program do not meet Certification/Licensure in the following states:**

Not applicable

**The requirements of this program have not been determined if they meet Certification/Licensure in the following states:**


**RESOURCES AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

Information about scholarships, academic and career advising, study abroad opportunities, student diversity services, and other resources for students in the School of Education can be found on the school’s Resources [http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/#resourcetext] page.