

SPANISH, BSE

HOW TO GET IN

PROGRAM ADMISSION OVERVIEW

Note: The undergraduate World Language Education Program will be suspended in the fall of 2020. A new graduate-level program is being developed for teacher certification in these languages.

Students are admitted to the World Language Education undergraduate professional program once a year, effective in the fall. Selection is made the previous spring.

The last group of undergraduates will be selected for the professional program in the spring of 2020 and must apply by May 1, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. for consideration. Admission criteria listed below have been modified from previous years to accommodate students interested in applying for the final undergraduate cohort. This group includes freshmen beginning in the fall of 2019. Contact Education Academic Services for additional information.

ENTERING THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION NEW AND CURRENT UW–MADISON STUDENTS

New freshmen and transfer students interested in World Language 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 World Language Education receive the pre-professional classification of PRS.

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 Education Academic Services (EAS), 139 Education Building, 1000 Bascom Mall; 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 an additional application and admission process. **The deadline for this application may be different, and much earlier, than the application to the professional program.** 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 Education Academic Services advisor 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 Education Academic Services advisor 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/#policiesandregulationstext>).

NATIVE AND HERITAGE SPEAKERS

Native or heritage speakers of a language major offered within the World Language Education program are welcome to pursue admission to the World Language Education program. Prospective applicants and transfer students who have previous experience with a language are encouraged to consult with an advisor in Education Academic Services as early as possible; to schedule, call 608-262-1651.

Native or heritage speakers must take a placement exam in the corresponding language to determine the appropriate level of remaining instruction in grammar, communication standards and social customs, and other topics related to language acquisition and proficiency. Placement examinations for Spanish, French, and German are offered on campus through Testing & Evaluation Services or the University of Wisconsin System’s Regional Placement Testing Program. Placement examinations for Chinese, Japanese, Italian, Latin, and Portuguese are administered by faculty or staff within the relevant academic department. For more information regarding placement in language courses, consult the Languages at UW–Madison placement guide (<http://languages.wisc.edu/advising/placement/>).

APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

Applicants to the World Language Education program will be selected once a year, during the spring semester. Admission decisions will be based on coursework completed through the preceding fall semester. Admission is provisional until spring semester work has been completed and posted, and Education Academic Services staff have verified that students have met the eligibility requirements.

Resources limit the number of students who can be served by the UW–Madison World Language Education teacher education program. In recent years the World Language Education program has been able to accommodate all qualified applicants; however, if the number of qualified applicants to World Language Education exceeds program resources, admission will become limited and competitive. If this

happens, meeting or surpassing the minimum eligibility criteria will not guarantee admission.

ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION

Requirements and selection criteria may be modified from one application/admission period to the next. Any changes to these criteria may occur up until the application period begins. Potential applicants should consult the School of Education's Apply to a Program (<http://www.education.wisc.edu/soe/academics/undergraduate-students/academic-program-admission/>) page for application deadlines and detailed information regarding current eligibility requirements and selection criteria prior to submitting an application.

To be considered for admission, students must:

- earn a minimum 2.75 grade point average on all major coursework completed
- earn a cumulative GPA of at least 2.75 (on a 4.00 scale).¹
- submit completed program application form(s), transcripts, and all other related application materials by the application deadline specified on the School of Education's Apply to a Program (<http://www.education.wisc.edu/soe/academics/undergraduate-students/academic-program-admission/>) page.
- Immersion Experience - In previous years, program eligibility included the completion of an immersion experience. While this requirement has been removed as a consideration for program eligibility, **students must still complete an immersion experience prior to beginning the professional sequence.**

¹ A comprehensive cumulative GPA of all college-level, transferrable coursework attempted on both the UW–Madison campus coursework and coursework taken at any other colleges or universities may be calculated for the exclusive purpose of establishing an applicant's eligibility for consideration. Both the comprehensive cumulative GPA and the comprehensive cumulative GPA based on a student's last 60 credits may be calculated. See Last 60 Credits Rule (detailed below). If admitted, students must earn the minimum cumulative GPA for UW–Madison coursework established by their program and the School of Education each semester after admission.

Last 60 Credits Rule

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/#policiesandregulationstext>).

APPLYING FOR CERTIFICATION IN MORE THAN ONE SUBJECT AREA

Students may apply to be certified in more than one language. Eligibility requirements must be met and separate applications must be filed for each area of interest. Students must be admitted as a major in at least

one of the program areas as it is not possible to be admitted only to complete a minor.

Students interested in combining the World Language Education degree program with certification in another area altogether must apply to both programs and meet the minimum criteria for admission to each program. It is suggested that students apply as majors in each area of interest, thus maximizing the chances of admission. Certification in two different areas requires the consent and cooperation of the World Language Education program coordinator and the faculty coordinator of the other subject area. Not all subjects can be combined with the World Language Education degree program.

While multiple majors or major–minor combinations are feasible and may be advantageous as a career strategy, it may take extra time to complete the additional subject area coursework. Students are encouraged to work closely with their Education Academic Services advisor to assess the possibility of completing certification in more than one area and to coordinate the requirements of multiple certifications.

PROGRAM ADMISSION SELECTION CRITERIA

The files of all applicants will be individually and holistically reviewed by a panel of World Language professionals. The criteria used for admission include the following:

- **Academic Qualifications:** The applicant demonstrates mastery of the target language and knowledge of its literature, civilization, and culture.
- **Career Maturity:** The applicant demonstrates commitment to teaching the target language to elementary, middle, and high school students, including consideration of his or her own strengths and limitations as a potential teacher.
- **Ability to Relate to Youth:** The applicant demonstrates the ability to work effectively with young people.
- **Commitment to All Students:** The applicant demonstrates commitment to working with all students including those of different racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds, and students with disabilities, not just the economically privileged or highly motivated.
- **Interpersonal Skills:** The applicant demonstrates the ability to work effectively with peers, other professionals, and members of the community outside of school settings.

The application files are rated according to the above criteria for each language. A final cohort is selected along with rank-ordered alternates, based on a combination of ratings made by the World Language Education review committee and judgement by the faculty program coordinator about optimal cohort characteristics for each language. The availability of field placements in the subject area may also influence the selection process. Admission procedures are reviewed every other year to ensure fairness and effectiveness.

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 Education Academic Services.