

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION, BS

## HOW TO GET IN

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#### PHYSICAL EDUCATION DECLARATION OVERVIEW

Students interested in a degree in Physical Education can enter UW-Madison with a Pre-Physical Education classification. They spend their initial semesters completing liberal studies, general education, and science core requirements.

UW-Madison students who started in another major can move to Pre-Physical Education by completing a Pre-Professional Declaration (<http://www.education.wisc.edu/soe/academics/undergraduate-students/academic-program-admission/>). A GPA of 2.75, based on all UW-Madison coursework or the last 60 credits (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/#policiesandregulationstext>), is required to transfer into Pre-Physical Education.

It is not necessary to be a Pre-Physical Education student before declaring the Bachelor of Science in Physical Education.

#### DECLARING BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION (BSPE)

##### On-Campus Students

On-campus students may declare the Bachelor of Science in Physical Education degree at any time, provided they have met the following requirements:

- Have second-year academic standing.
- Earned a minimum 2.75 cumulative GPA (4.00 scale) on all college work attempted, or a 2.75 on the last 60 credits (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/#policiesandregulationstext>).
- Have met with a Physical Education or School of Education Student Services advisor who will submit the declaration form; see Contact Information for details.

<sup>1</sup> Last 60 Credits Rule - Two grade point averages may be calculated to determine a candidate's eligibility to declare Physical Education. A GPA may be calculated using (1) UW-Madison and all other all transferable college level coursework attempted and (2) the last 60 credits attempted. The higher GPA of these two calculations will be used for determining eligibility. Once declared, students must earn a semester GPA of 2.75 each semester after declaration. More information on this rule is available here (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/#policiesandregulationstext>).

##### Off-Campus Transfers to UW-Madison

Off-campus students wishing to transfer to UW-Madison and declare the Bachelor of Science in Physical Education degree must be admitted to UW-Madison. Admission to the university has its own application, admission process, and application deadlines; see Office of Admissions and Recruitment (<http://www.admissions.wisc.edu/>) for application

information. Students also need to meet with a Physical Education or School of Education Student Services advisor, who will determine if the following eligibility requirements to declare the BSPE degree have been met:

- Have second year academic standing.
- Earned a minimum 2.75 cumulative GPA (4.00 scale) on all college work attempted or 2.75 on the last 60 credits (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/#policiesandregulationstext>).

See Contact Information for details. The advisor will submit the declaration form if the student has met the eligibility requirements. Transfer students who do not meet the declaration eligibility requirements may be admitted to UW-Madison with the Pre-Physical Education classification.

##### Students with a Previous Undergraduate Degree

Students who already hold a Bachelor's degree and wish to become certified to teach Physical Education must be admitted to UW-Madison. Admission to the university has its own application, admission process, and application deadlines; see Office of Admissions and Recruitment (<http://www.admissions.wisc.edu>) for university application information.

Students need to meet with a Physical Education or School of Education Student Services advisor who will (1) review the student's eligibility to declare the BSPE degree, and (2) discuss their admission status, see below. Eligibility requires that a student has:

- Earned a minimum 2.75 cumulative GPA (4.00 scale) on all college work attempted or 2.75 on the last 60 credits (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/#policiesandregulationstext>).

See Contact Information for details. The advisor will submit the declaration form if the student has met the eligibility requirement.

An applicant with a previous undergraduate degree will be admitted to Physical Education as a second degree candidate or as a School of Education "Special Student," depending on their academic background. *Second degree candidates* in the School of Education are changing their academic direction and wish to complete a degree that is unrelated to their first degree. A large number of credits are usually required to complete the new degree requirements and a second degree is awarded upon its completion; more information is available here (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/#policiesandregulationstext>).

Admission as an *Education Special Student* indicates that the applicant wishes to pursue teacher certification in Physical Education and studied it extensively during their initial degree. An individual enrolls in Physical Education as a Special Student to complete the requirements that were not taken during the first degree; these are assessed on a case by case basis. Another degree is not awarded for this "certification only" coursework.

All returning students are strongly advised to meet with an advisor in the School of Education Student Services office before applying for admission to UW-Madison. Consultations with advisors are available in person, virtually, or via telephone; email [studentservices@education.wisc.edu](mailto:studentservices@education.wisc.edu) ([soeacademicservices@education.wisc.edu](mailto:soeacademicservices@education.wisc.edu)) or call 608-262-1651 to schedule an appointment.

## **BACKGROUND CHECKS**

Pursuant to State of Wisconsin law PI 34.018(2), the School of Education is required to administer a background check on all students entering teacher education programs. 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 frequently conduct background checks on teacher education students prior to the start of their in-classroom field work, and the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) will also conduct a background check on each applicant for a Wisconsin educator license.

Students should be aware that 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](mailto:tec@education.wisc.edu).