

PHYSICAL EDUCATION, B.S.

HOW TO GET IN

PROGRAM ADMISSION OVERVIEW

Undergraduate Physical Education students generally apply to the professional part of the Physical Education degree program in their sophomore year. Currently, students are admitted to the program twice a year, effective for the fall or spring semester following selection.

ENTERING THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

NEW AND CURRENT UW-MADISON STUDENTS

New freshmen and transfer students interested in Physical 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 Physical Education receive a pre-classification of PED. This classification indicates that a student is interested in Physical Education, but has not applied and been admitted to the professional part of the undergraduate program.

On-campus students wishing to be admitted to the school while working on eligibility requirements and application can apply for admission to the School of Education by completing a Pre-Professional Application (<http://www.education.wisc.edu/soe/academics/undergraduate-students/academic-program-admission/>). A minimum GPA of 2.75, based on UW-Madison coursework, is required to transfer into the School. This GPA may be modified by the Last 60 Credits rule, see below. It is not necessary to be a "pre-professional" student before applying to a professional program. To remain in good standing, students with a PED classification must maintain campus and semester GPAs of 2.75, as modified by the Last 60 Credits rule. Admission as a "pre-professional" student does not guarantee admission to the professional program.

It is strongly recommended that students interested in Physical Education consult with an advisor in the Kinesiology department. It would also be helpful to speak 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/#policiesandregulationstext>).

APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

Certification to teach Physical Education requires that a student be admitted into the professional part of the degree program. The School of Education admits students into the Physical Education program twice a year, effective for the fall or spring semester following selection. In recent years the Physical Education program has been able to accommodate all qualified applicants; however, if the number of qualified applicants to Physical Education exceeds program resources, admission will become limited and competitive.

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 (<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 to the professional program, students must meet the following criteria:

- Total Credits/Prerequisite Coursework: Earn 40 or more credits by the end of the semester in which the application is submitted, including the following prerequisite courses:
 - KINES 116 First Aid and Basic Life Support (2 cr), or exemption. Students may exempt from KINES 116 First Aid and Basic Life Support by completing American Red Cross First Aid AND one of the following: 1) American Red Cross Basic Life Support, 2) American Red Cross Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers, or 3) American Red Cross CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers. If a student wishes to request that a different course (or courses) be considered, contact the Department of Kinesiology undergraduate office PRIOR to enrolling.
 - KINES 119 Introduction to Kinesiology (2 cr)
- Cumulative Grade Point Average: Earn a minimum 2.75 (on a 4.00 scale) cumulative GPA on all college coursework attempted or a 2.75 cumulative GPA based on the Last 60 Credits Rule (detailed below (<https://wisc-preview.courseleaf.com/undergraduate/education/kinesiology/physical-education-bs/#Last-60-Credits-Rule>)) by the end of the term prior to the

application semester (summer for fall application or fall for spring application).¹ This 2.75 GPA must be maintained through the semester during which the application is submitted to remain eligible for admission.

- 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 (<http://www.education.wisc.edu/soe/academics/undergraduate-students/academic-program-admission/>) page.
- Note: 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.

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.) Currently, retention and graduation GPAs are based on all credits attempted at UW–Madison as an undergraduate student. If each semester's GPA after admission to the program meets the required GPA for retention, the student will be allowed to continue and complete the program. More information on this rule is available here (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/#policiesandregulationstext>).

ADMISSION CRITERIA

The Admissions Committee will review application files with three key areas in mind:

- **Academic Qualifications:** The Department of Kinesiology and the Physical Education Teacher Education Program seek students with strong academic credentials. This includes cumulative undergraduate grade point average (GPA), course selection, and trend of college grades.
- **Goals:** The required personal statement provides an opportunity for students to express their reasons for pursuing a career in physical education and what has shaped their desire to do

so. The admissions committee expects applicants to have a foundational understanding of physical education and to have a sense of some of the issues that physical educators face. Observing or volunteering in physical education settings can help applicants demonstrate an understanding of the field.

- **Other Contributions:** The Department of Kinesiology and the Physical Education Teacher Education Program seek students whose diverse work experiences, life experience, stated goals, and cultural background are assets to the learning environment in both the department and the professional program.

APPLICATION REVIEW AND SELECTION

Applicants to the Physical Education Teacher Education Program will compete for a specific number of openings in the program. Each application will be reviewed by at least two academic faculty or staff from the Admissions Committee. Each committee member will independently examine and rate applicants' files on a scale of 1 (do not accept) to 5 (definitely accept) using a holistic view based on the criteria above. The committee members will then share and discuss their ratings and select the final cohort for admission.

Students will be provisionally accepted in December or May. The offer of admission will be revoked and the student withdrawn from subsequent Kinesiology courses (typically during January or August) if any of the following requirements are not met:

- All prerequisite courses completed by the end of the semester in which the application is submitted.
- Maintenance of a cumulative GPA of last 60-credit GPA of at least 2.75.

If there are more eligible applicants than spaces available, eligible applicants will be rank-ordered for admission based on

1. cumulative GPA or 60-credit GPA and
2. nonacademic factors.

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.