INDIVIDUAL MAJOR, BSE

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/#requirementsforundergraduatestudytext) 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/#requirementstext) 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 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

The Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree program with an individual major has three components:

- *Liberal studies* courses expose students to a broad range of academic disciplines. The university-wide *General Education* requirements also encourage this breadth of study.
- *Major* requirements permit in-depth study of a unique area within the School of Education. Students create their own, interdepartmental major following the guidelines established by the school. When completed, the title of the individual major is listed on the student's transcript.
- *Elective* credits make it possible to pursue additional areas of interest and are necessary to reach the minimum of 120 credits required for the degree.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL MAJOR

DEVELOPMENT OF THE MAJOR

Students must have an area of interest that they wish to develop into a 36–42 credit formalized program of study, or major. Advisors in Education Student Services, Room 139 Education Building, 1000 Bascom Mall, 608-262-1651, can discuss students' interests and help frame the written narrative required of the major. Current students can schedule an appointment with an advisor online through the Starfish app (https://advising.wisc.edu/facstaff/starfish/starfish-student-resources/) in MyUW.

Applicants must develop a narrative describing the proposed course of study and its related career goals. Information should be included which will enable a faculty committee to identify the relationship among the proposed program of study, a general interest in education, and career goals. A program title cannot duplicate the existing title of any program at UW–Madison.

SELECTION OF MAJOR COURSEWORK

Select courses that support the program narrative, in consultation with the major advisor; see below. **All courses in the major must be from School of Education course offerings.** All credits in the major must be completed after admission into the program (IME classification).

Additional requirements regarding the major are:

- To ensure depth and breadth of study, no more than two-thirds of the total credits in a major can be taken from any one department (i.e., if a major is 36 credits, no more than 24 credits can be in one department).
- A sequential development of courses must be planned in consultation with the major advisor and committee, and must be approved by the committee. The course sequence must include beginning through advanced levels of work as prescribed by the credit distribution.
- At least 20 of the IME credits must be at the intermediate or advanced levels (generally numbered 300 or above, but this varies in some departments).
- Courses in the School of Education completed prior to admission to the IME classification may not be used toward satisfaction of the 36–42 credits in the major without the faculty committee and associate dean's approval. The credits may count toward the 120 credits required for graduation.
- Degree candidates must complete at least 15 credits of upper-level major coursework in residence on the UW–Madison campus.
- An individual major which essentially parallels an existing departmental major will not be accepted.
- Directed study credits (e.g. 399, 699) are acceptable, but each course must be accompanied by a statement that includes a description of the focus of study, the requirements for successful completion of the credits, and a discussion of the applicability of content to the proposed individual major. Usually no more than 3 credits of Independent Study will be allowed. Approval of the associate dean is required in order to exceed three credits.
- Students must complete prerequisites for all courses and, in some departments, may be required to complete foundational courses.

SELECTING THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND MAJOR ADVISOR

The applicant must create a three-member committee to oversee his or her work. Only assistant, associate, and full professors may serve on the committee; individuals holding such titles as Lecturer or Instructor cannot serve in this capacity. One of the committee members will be selected by the student to be the major advisor. The major advisor must be from a department within the School of Education and from the department in which the majority of courses for the individual major will be taken, i.e., the core area of study. The second faculty member must be from the same department as the major advisor/committee chair. The third faculty member must be from another department in the School of Education in which courses will be taken for the individual major. The associate dean serves as ex officio to the three-member committee and gives final approval to all programs and any exceptions.

ELECTIVE CREDITS

Elective credits make it possible to pursue additional areas of interest. Many students, for example, use their elective credits to complete an additional major from the College of Letters & Science. Some use this second major to complement their individual major, while others select second majors that are completely unrelated to their first. Elective credits are necessary to reach the minimum of 120 credits required for the degree.

GPA AND OTHER GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Graduation requirements are based on UW–Madison coursework. Graduation GPA requirements may be modified by the Last 60 Credits Rule (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/#policiesandregulationstext).

- 2.75 cumulative grade point average.
- 2.75 cumulative grade point average across all major coursework
- 2.75 cumulative grade point average across all upper-level (numbered 300 and above) major coursework
- Degree candidates must complete at least 120 total credits.
- Major residency. Degree candidates must complete at least 15 credits of upper-level major coursework in residence on the UW–Madison campus.
- Senior residency. Degree candidates must complete their last 30 credits in residence on the UW–Madison campus.

DEGREE AUDIT (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.

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.