

Teacher Education

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College: Professional Studies

Undergraduate Teacher Education Programs

All degree programs for teacher certification require the completion of courses in general education, general professional preparation, and a teaching specialization. All bachelor's degree programs in education are subject to degree requirements listed in the appropriate program section of this *Catalog*. All students seeking initial certification must be degree-seeking.

Secondary education majors will complete their baccalaureate degree in the discipline. The student will complete certification requirements through a master's degree.

Responsibility for the teacher education programs at The University of West Florida rests with the Dean of the College of Professional Studies, who is the head of the professional education unit.

Requirements for teacher education programs may change due to legislative mandates. Therefore, the actual program requirements may differ from those listed in the *Catalog*. Candidates must inquire with the Chair of the Division of Teacher Education or with Professional Studies Student Center to obtain the most current program requirements.

Fingerprinting is required for any placement in a school (includes the field experience associated with EDF 1005). The Student Affidavit and Fingerprinting Application are required before you can be placed in a school for Practicum or Student Teacher experiences. Forms are available from the Professional Studies Student Center, Division of Teacher Education office, or local school districts.

Undergraduate Programs of Study

Elementary Education/ESOL
Exceptional Student Education/ESOL
Middle School Education
Prekindergarten/Primary Education/ESOL

Admission to Teacher Education

Teacher Education students entering UWF as freshmen, sophomores, or juniors will automatically be placed into a pending status until they meet the requirements for admission to student teaching. This pending status allows the unit to carefully monitor student progress through teacher education programs. Careful monitoring will ensure that academic, mental, and/or social skills deficits of pre-service teachers can be identified in a timely manner so that students can be placed in a Professional Development Plan and appropriate interventions can be implemented.

Before the end of the first semester as a junior at UWF, students will be required to complete the items below. Students who do not complete these requirements by the end of the first semester as a junior may be denied further registration and an enrollment hold may be placed on any future enrollment in education courses. The hold may be removed for the student completing the requirements:

A. Have a cumulative GPA of 2.50 in all previously attempted college work.

- B. Take the College Level Academic Skills Test (CLAST).
- C. Submit two recommendations from former or current college faculty who have taught the student a course attesting to the student's potential to become a successful teacher. Letters should include student's name and social security number and be sent to the Professional Studies Student Center (PSSC). For students in a secondary specialization, one of the letters must be from a content teacher in the specialization.
- D. Submit a 500 word handwritten autobiographical sketch to the PSSC.
- E. Submit a 250 word handwritten rationale for becoming a teacher to the PSSC.
- F. Complete an Application for Admission to Teacher Education.
- G. Check with the PSSC advisors for the times and locations of the Orientation and Assessment sessions for the UWF Pensacola, OWC/UWF Fort Walton Beach, and Chipola College/UWF Marianna campuses and to complete an Orientation and Assessment card.
- H. Review of the items A-G above by one of the faculty members in the Division of Teacher Education and approval by the Chairperson of the Division of Teacher Education.

Readmission to Teacher Education

Readmission into a teacher education program requires the student to meet standards for National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) program approval requirements. NCATE and FDOE reviews are conducted every five years.

Therefore, readmitted students will be required to:

complete the degree plan in effect at the time of readmission; and

meet the requirements for admission to teacher education in effect at the time of readmission.

Course work completed prior to readmission will be reviewed for compliance with current NCATE and FDOE requirements. Students will be required to retake courses not in compliance with these requirements.

General Professional Preparation

All students (excluding secondary) at UWF preparing for teacher certification must complete the following general professional preparation course work. Specific course descriptions are found in the *Catalog* and are listed alphabetically.

Required Lower Division Prerequisites

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| EDF | 1005 | Introduction to Education | 3 |
| EDG | 2701 | Teaching Diverse Populations | 3 |
| EME | 2040 | Introduction to Educational Technology | 3 |

Teaching Specialization

Students preparing to teach will choose a teaching specialization from the majors listed under Teacher Certification Programs. Specialization courses are offered in the major department. See the section of this *Catalog* related to the appropriate specialization for specific course requirements.

Admission to Student Teaching

The student teaching program, administered through the Division of Teacher Education consists of one semester of student teaching or two semesters of internship supervised by a highly qualified teacher in the school who has completed Clinical Educator

Training. The student teaching/internship experience is scheduled during the student's senior year or graduate program.

Requirements for admission to student teaching/internship include:

- A. Full admission to teacher education;
- B. A minimum GPA of 2.5 in all course work. A grade below "C-" cannot be used to satisfy a program requirement. Some programs may have higher standards (see individual program descriptions);
- C. A minimum GPA of 2.5 in academic major;
- D. Recommendation of an academic advisor and chairperson of the major department;
- E. Recommendation of the vice president for student affairs (records check);
- F. Classification as a senior at the University and completion of a minimum of 15 sh upper-division credit in the specialization (some departments may require additional upper-division credit);
- G. Completion of specialization courses offered in the major department (see the section of this *Catalog* related to the appropriate specialization for specific course requirements);
- H. Approval of the Chairperson, Division of Teacher Education. During the time a student is engaged in student teaching, any outside employment or additional academic work except senior seminar, professional development seminar, and Practicum IV must be approved by the Chairperson, Division of Teacher Education.
- I. Pass the general knowledge, professional, subject area, and CLAST tests of the Florida Teacher Certification Examination or the equivalent tests of the PRAXIS.
- J. Successful completion of the State of Florida Educator Accomplished Practices at the professional level.

Higher Education Act (1998)

In accordance with this act, information about teacher education programs may be accessed at the College of Professional Studies - Division of Teacher Education website.