

Elementary Education Checklist

The University of Pittsburgh, School of Education (SOE), offers programs in Elementary Education (K-6 certification) at the post-baccalaureate level. There is no undergraduate major or certification program in Elementary Education. A student may choose any undergraduate major as long as he/she completes the courses required for admission into a certification program in the SOE. **We will continue to offer the K-6 Elementary Education certification through August, 2013.** The SOE offers two options at the post-baccalaureate level that lead to certification in Elementary Education: the Professional Year/MEd (PY) and the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) programs. Details are outlined below.

To be considered for admission, applicants need to have:

- Submitted a completed SOE application form and application fee: www.education.pitt.edu/apply.
- Earned an undergraduate degree with a recommended GPA of 3.0. Applications from students who plan to earn their undergraduate degree before the term of admission will be considered.
- Submitted official transcripts from ALL institutions attended.
- Submitted copies of spring and summer registration forms as applicable.
- Completed the appropriate number of credit hours as required under the academic prerequisites.
- Completed the appropriate number of credit hours as required under the education prerequisites.
- Submitted evidence of passing scores on the *Praxis I* Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST): reading, writing, and mathematics. For further information on the test series: <http://www.ets.org/praxis>.
- Submitted three letters of academic and/or professional recommendation.
- Submitted a thoughtful, clearly written goal statement of two to three double-spaced, typewritten pages.
- Submitted a resume highlighting work with school age children.

MEETING OR EXCEEDING THE APPLICATION CRITERIA DOES NOT GUARANTEE ADMISSION. The application deadline for both programs is **January 15th** of the admission year. Questions can be directed to the Office of Admissions and Enrollment Services at: 412.648.2230 or soeinfo@pitt.edu.

Professional Year/MEd (PY) Program:

- Satisfies the requirements for a PA Instructional I Certificate in Elementary Education (pending passing scores on the national Praxis I and II exams, successful completion of the PA Statewide Evaluation Form for Student Professional Knowledge and Practice (PDE 430), and satisfactory performance in courses and student teaching).
- Is completed in two terms, fall and spring, of 15 credit hours each.
- Requires 10 hours per week at a local school district in the fall term and a full-time student teaching experience at the same site in the spring term.*
- Contains 18 credits that can be applied within four years toward a Master of Education (MEd) degree.
- Students may apply for financial aid.

Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Program:

- Requires Interns to take and pass the Fundamental Subjects: Content Knowledge test during the first summer of their program in order to obtain their Intern Certificate.
- Satisfies the requirements for a PA Instructional I Certificate in Elementary Education (pending passing scores on the national Praxis I and II exams, successful completion of the PA Statewide Evaluation Form for Student Professional Knowledge and Practice (PDE 430), and satisfactory performance in courses and the internship).
- Is completed in 12 months (summer II, fall, spring, summer I) beginning in June of the admission year.
- Consists of graduate coursework in combination with an internship in a local school district from Sept. to June.*
- Students may apply for financial aid.

*Compliance with all federal and PA state clearances is required before entering schools.

Academic Prerequisites (21 credits)

Course No.	Course Title	GR		Credits
			Children's Literature	3
IL 1257			Instructing English Language Learners	3
			Science Course	3
			American History	3
IL 1580			Foundations of Special Education	3
IL 1473			Math for Elementary Teachers	3
HPA 1491			Health and Wellness Physical Education (emphasis on motor development and wellness)	3
			Child Development or Developmental Psychology*	

*strongly recommended

Education Prerequisites

For Professional Year/MEd (PY) students, all three education prerequisites must be taken prior to the fall term of the PY program. For Master of Arts in Teaching students only the Introduction to Elementary Education prerequisite is required.

The following approved clearances are required before taking Introduction to Elementary Education and any other course that requires a field placement: Federal Criminal History Record, Act 34- PA State Police Criminal Record Check, and Act 33/151 PA Child Abuse History. Forms may be obtained in 5300 Wesley Posvar Hall, or from our clearances information page.

Course No.	MAT		PY
	Course Title	GR	Course Title
	Introduction to Elementary Education		Introduction to Elementary Education
			Social Foundations of Education OR Education and Society *
			Educational Psychology OR Adolescent Psychology * OR Psychology of Learning *

*If taken at the graduate level can be used toward the MEd after completion of the PY program.

Professional Year (PY) Instructional I Certificate Option

Fall Term

IL 2206	Reading & Language Arts in the Primary Grades	3 credits
IL 2231	Reading & Language Arts in the Intermediate Grades	3 credits
IL 2261	Social Studies & Technology in Elementary Schools	3 credits
IL 2501	Students with Disabilities in Elementary Classrooms	3 credits
IL 2270	Art & Music in the Elementary School	2 credits
IL 2801	Practicum - Elementary	1 credit

Spring Term

IL 2523	Literacy Assessment and Instruction for Children with Disabilities in Inclusive Settings in Elementary Classrooms	3 credits
IL 2475	Elementary Math Methods	3 credits
IL 2420	Science & Technology in Elementary Schools	3 credits
IL 2804	Student Teaching - Elementary	5 credits
IL 2803	Student Teaching Seminar - Elementary	1 credit

Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Option

Summer Session II

EDUC 2000	Psychology of Learning and Development	3 credits
IL 2231	Reading & Language Arts Intermediate Grades	3 credits
IL 2270	Art & Music in the Elementary School	2 credits
EDUC 2100	Education and Society	3 credits

Fall Term

IL 2523	Literacy Assessment and Instruction for Children with Disabilities in Inclusive Settings in Elementary Classrooms	3 credits
IL 2206	Reading & Language Arts Primary Grades	3 credits
IL 2475	Elementary Math Methods	3 credits
IL 2420	Science & Technology in Elementary Schools	3 credits
IL 2897	Internship - Elementary	2 credits
IL 2895	Internship Seminar - Elementary	1 credit

Spring Term

IL 2501	Students w/Disabilities in Elementary Classrooms	3 credits
IL 2261	Social Studies & Technology in Elementary Schools	3 credits
EDUC 2200	Disciplined Inquiry	3 credits
IL 2897	Internship - Elementary	3 credits

Summer Session I

IL 2990	Research Seminar for MAT Interns	3 credits
ELECTIVE	(Can be taken in Spring term instead)	3 credits
IL 2987	Internship - Elementary	3 credits

Questions? Contact:

Office of Admissions and Enrollment Services
School of Education
5500 Wesley W. Posvar Hall
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
Telephone: 412-648-2230
Email: soeinfo@pitt.edu

University of Pittsburgh
Department of Instruction and Learning
School of Education

Elementary Education
2012 Applications

~Checklist of Things You Need Before You Apply~

- **Completed prerequisite courses (MAY STILL HAVE 4 REMAINING WHEN YOU APPLY but make certain to include a copy of your current registration and/or a schedule of courses remaining and when they will be taken). ALL PREREQUISITES MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE BEGINNING WORK IN THE PROGRAM.**
- **Resume (highlighting work with children) – does not need to be limited to one page but does need to clearly describe all relevant work, paid or unpaid, with school-age children, preferably, in school/instructional settings**
- **Goal statement (3-5 double-spaced, typewritten pages)
Explain to the admissions committee how and why you have decided to become an elementary teacher. Discuss your decision based upon work you have already done with school-age children. Also include a long-term look at your career in education. Although babysitting, being a parent, and being part of a large family provide many opportunities to interact with children, these experiences differ from interacting with children in school/instructional settings. Please focus on work in school/instructional settings.**
- **Three (3) recommendations (addressed to University of Pittsburgh School of Education, Admissions and Enrollment Services, 5500 Posvar Hall, Pittsburgh, PA 15260) If possible, we would like two recommendations (2) from professors who can discuss your potential for graduate level work and one recommendation (1) from someone who has seen you working with school-age children, preferably, in a school/instructional setting.**
- **Official transcripts from ALL colleges/universities attended. If you have transferred and your transfer credits appear on the Pitt transcript, we still need the official transcript of your work from the original university.**
- **Praxis I exam results (reading, writing, mathematics) – You must have passing scores on all exams. Therefore, schedule them so that you have plenty of time to retake any test you may not pass on the first attempt. If you take them online, you will receive your reading and mathematics scores immediately. However, it may take up to two months for your writing score to arrive. If you fail a section you cannot retake it in the same calendar month. As a result, schedule these tests several months prior to January 15. You will not be admitted without passing scores on these Praxis exams. When you register for the test, code in The University of Pittsburgh (R 2927) so that we will receive your official scores.**

Other Important Information:

- **We have one annual admission cycle, so you need to plan well in advance. During Fall term of your senior year, make certain you have taken the majority of your prerequisites, take your Praxis tests, begin asking for recommendations, and begin writing your goal statement and resume.**
- **January 15 is the final application deadline each year, which means that your completed application should be received in the School of Education Office of Admissions and Enrollment Services by that date.**
- **A completed application includes: the application form, application fee, all transcripts, recommendations, resume, and your goal statement. (Official Praxis scores must be sent directly from the testing agency.)**
- **Submit application online at: www.education.pitt.edu/apply**
- **A minimum of a 3.0 GPA is required. THIS DOES NOT, HOWEVER, AUTOMATICALLY ENSURE ADMISSION INTO THE PROGRAM. If you do not have a 3.0 GPA, you should either retake courses in which you received a D or an F grade or take additional coursework in areas which appear weak on your transcript and receive a grade of “B” or better.**
- **You need to have at least a “B” in all prerequisite courses. The admissions committee looks carefully at mathematics and science grades as well as grades in writing courses.**