

Elementary Education Checklist

The University of Pittsburgh, School of Education, 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 or she completes the courses required for admission into a certification program in the School of Education. Due to Changes in State certification, Elementary Education certification will only be granted through August 2013. The School of Education offers two options at the post-baccalaureate level that lead to certification in elementary education; the Professional Year (PY) and Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) programs. Details are outlined below.

To be considered for admission, applicants need to have:

- submitted a completed School of Education application form and the application fee
- earned an undergraduate degree with a minimum QPA 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 a copy of the spring registration form if enrolled in spring term courses
- completed the appropriate number of prerequisite credit hours in Academic Prerequisites
- completed the appropriate number of prerequisite credit hours in Chapter 354.23 Prerequisites
- completed the appropriate number of prerequisite credit hours in Education Prerequisites
- submitted evidence of passing scores on the PRAXIS I test series (reading, writing, and mathematics)
- 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 resumé highlighting work with school age children

MEETING OR EXCEEDING THE APPLICATION CRITERIA DOES NOT GUARANTEE ADMISSION

The application deadline for both programs is January 15 of the admission year. If you have any questions, please contact the Admissions and Enrollment Services at 412-648-2230.

Professional Year (PY) Program

- satisfies the requirements for a Pennsylvania Instructional I Certificate in Elementary Education (pending passing scores on the national PRAXIS I & 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 15 hrs 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 which can be applied within three years towards a Master of Education 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 Pennsylvania Instructional I Certificate in Elementary Education (pending passing scores on the national PRAXIS I & II Exams, successful completion of the PA Statewide Evaluation Form for Student Professional Knowledge and Practice (PDE 430), and satisfactory performance in courses and in the internship)
- is completed in 12 months (two terms and two summer sessions) beginning in June of the admission year
- consists of graduate course work combined with a maximum of 4.5 day per week internship in a local school district from September through June
- students may apply for financial aid.

Compliance with all Federal and PA State clearances is required before entering schools. Information on how to obtain these clearances is available at: www.education.pitt.edu/clearances.

Apply Online at www.education.pitt.edu/apply

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**

Chapter 354.23 Prerequisites

Section 354.23 of the Pennsylvania Department of Education teacher certification requirements states that all prospective candidates must take at least 6 semester hour credits in college level English and 6 semester hour credits in college level Mathematics with a grade of C or better.

Course No.	Course Title	GR		Credits
			College Level English Composition (or the equivalent)*	3
			College Level American or British Literature	3
			College Level Mathematics (or the equivalent)*	3
			College Level Mathematics (or the equivalent)	3

*SAT II writing subject test score of 600 or above satisfies the three credit English composition requirement.

*A Math SAT II score of 560 or above, or a college or university Algebra Placement Test, or the successful completion of an Advanced Placement Mathematics class that appears on your institution’s transcript, satisfies three credits of the Math requirement.

Education Prerequisites

For Professional Year 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 <i>OR</i> Education and Society *
			Educational Psychology <i>OR</i> Adolescent Psychology * <i>OR</i> 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 & Tech. in Elementary School	3 credits
IL 2501	Students with Disabilities in Elementary Classroom	3 credits
IL 2270	Art & Music in the Elementary School	2 credits
IL 2801	Elementary Practicum	1 credit

Spring Term

IL 2001	Introduction to Planning and Assessment	3 credits
IL 2475	Elementary Math Methods	3 credits
IL 2420	Science & Technology in Elementary Schools	3 credits
IL 2801	Student Teaching Seminar in the Elementary/Middle School	1 credit
IL 2801	Student Teaching in the Elementary/Middle School	5 credits

Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Option

Summer Session II

IL 2001	Intro to Planning and Assessment in Elementary Classroom	3 credits
IL 2231	Reading & Language Arts in the Intermediate Grades	3 credits
IL 2270	Art & Music in the Elementary School	2 credits
EDUC 2100	Education and Society	3 credits

Fall Term

EDUC 2000	Psychology of Learning and Development for Educators	3 credits
IL 2206	Reading & Language Arts in the Primary Grades	3 credits
IL 2475	Elementary Math Methods	3 credits
IL 2895	Internship in the Elementary/Middle School	2 credits
IL 2895	Internship Seminar in the Elementary/Middle School	1 credit
IL 2420	Science and Technology in Elementary Schools	3 credits

Spring Term

IL 2501	Students w/Disabilities in Elementary Classrooms	3 credits
IL 2895	Internship in the Elementary/Middle School	3 credits
IL 2261	Social Studies & Technology in Elementary School	3 credits
EDUC 2200	Disciplined Inquiry	3 credits

Summer Session I

IL 2990	Research Seminar for MAT Interns	3 credits
IL 2895	Internship & Seminar in the Elementary/Middle School	3 credits
IL 2257	Instructing English Language Learners	3 credits

**For further information concerning program offerings,
please contact:**

Department of Instruction and Learning
5300 Wesley W. Posvar Hall
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
Telephone 412-624-7254

Application Questions? Contact:
Admissions and Enrollment Services

School of Education
5500 Wesley W. Posvar Hall
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
Telephone 412-648-2230

Online Applications available at

<http://www.education.pitt.edu/apply>

**University of Pittsburgh
Department of Instruction and Learning
School of Education**

**Elementary Education – Early Childhood Teacher Certification Programs
2010 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.**
- **6 credits of college mathematics (Math for Elementary Teachers does NOT count as a mathematics course). You can take any college-level mathematics courses to satisfy this requirement other than education courses, computer courses, or logic.**
- **6 credits of college English (3 of composition/3 of American or British literature). This is a PA Department of Education (PDE) requirement, not a School of Education Requirement. The PDE specifies that the literature course must expose teacher applicants to works written by American or British authors. Children’s literature courses do not satisfy this requirement.**
- **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 School of Education, Admissions and Enrollment Services, 5500 Posvar Hall, University of Pittsburgh, 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) – must have passing scores on all exams so schedule them so that you have plenty of time to retake any you may not pass on the first attempt. If you take them online you will receive your reading and mathematics scores immediately and your writing score can take up to two months. If you fail a section you cannot retake it in the same calendar**

month. Therefore, schedule these tests several months prior to January 15. You will not be admitted without them.

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 Admissions and Enrollment Center 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**
- **A minimum of a 3.0 QPA is required. THIS DOES NOT, HOWEVER, AUTOMATICALLY INSURE ADMISSION INTO THE PROGRAM. If you do not have a 3.0 QPA, 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.**