

Teacher Education Program

Teacher Education Program is overseen by the Center of Pedagogy. The purpose of this guide is to provide a general overview of the steps involved when preparing to apply to the Teacher Education Program. Students should apply for admission to the Program during the second semester of the sophomore year or first semester of the junior year. It's important to successfully complete the prerequisite requirements prior to applying.

1. Choosing a Major and Planning Your Course of Study

Students in **subject area certification programs** (everything except Early Childhood and Elementary) work towards certification for grades P-12 and are prepared to teach a specific subject in grades 5 or higher.

Students in the **Early Childhood Program** work towards certification for Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 3 (P-3). Students in the **Elementary Program** work towards certification for grades Kindergarten through Grade 5 (K-5). Typically, Early Childhood and Elementary candidates are prepared to teach all or most academic subjects for one class of students.

The chart below shows the accepted majors and minimum major GPA requirement for each undergraduate initial teacher certification program offered at MSU.

CERTIFICATION PROGRAM	ACCEPTED MAJORS	MAJOR GPA REQUIRED
Early Childhood (P-3)	Family and Child Studies – Early Childhood	3.0
Elementary (K-5)	Anthropology, English, General Humanities, History, Psychology, Sociology, Spanish OR Family & Child Studies – Early and Middle Childhood	3.0
Biological Science	Biology	2.5
Chemistry*	Chemistry	2.5
Dance	Dance Education	2.75
Earth Science	Geoscience	2.5
English	English	3.0
English as a 2 nd Language	Linguistics	3.0
Fine Arts	Fine Arts Education	3.0
French	French	3.0
Health	Health Education	2.75
Italian	Italian	3.0
Latin	Latin	3.0
Mathematics	Mathematics	2.75
Music	Music Education	3.0
Physical Education & Health	Physical Education AND Health	2.75
Physics**	Physics	2.5
Physical Science***	Chemistry or Physics	2.5
Social Studies	Anthropology, Economics, Geography, History, Political Science, Psychology, or Sociology	3.0
Spanish	Spanish	3.0

* Holders of Chemistry certification can teach chemistry, environmental science, & general science.

** Holders of Physics certification can teach physics, environmental science, and general science.

***Holders of Physical Science certification can teach physics, chemistry, and physical, environmental, general, earth, & space science.

2. Successfully Completing Prerequisite Courses

If you plan to apply for a **subject area program** (everything except Early Childhood and Elementary), you must first **successfully complete (C- or better)** the following courses:

- EDFD 200 Psychological Foundations of Education (also satisfies Gen Ed *K3* Social Science)
- EDFD 220 Philosophical Orientation to Education (also satisfies Gen Ed *F2* Philosophy/Religion)
- EDFD 221 Historical Foundations of American Education (also satisfies Gen Ed *K1* Amer/Eur Hist)
- CURR 210 Public Purposes of Education: Democracy and Schooling (satisfies *L* Gen Ed elective; must be sophomore status or higher)

In addition, you must also successfully complete **9 credits of major courses from your department.**

Math majors must have completed 11 credits including Calculus I and II and an additional course that requires Calculus II as a prerequisite.

If you plan to apply for the **Early Childhood (P-3) or Elementary (K-5) Program**, you must first **successfully complete (C- or better)** the following courses:

- PSYC 101 General Psychology (also satisfies Gen Ed *K3* Social Science)
- SPCM 101 Fundamentals of Speech (also satisfies Gen Ed *C2* Communication)
- ECEL 200 Perspectives in Early Childhood & Elementary Education in a Democracy (also satisfies *L* Gen Ed elective; must be sophomore status or higher)
- FCST 214 Child Development I (prerequisite PSYC101)

In addition, you must also successfully complete **9 credits of major courses from your department.**

Family & Child Studies majors are required to successfully complete 6 credits of major courses, as well as FCST 214.

****Transfer Exception****

Students who transfer to MSU with **60 or more credits** that are seeking a **subject certification**, may apply to the program immediately if they have **completed 9 credits of major courses** from their previous college or MSU and if they have **completed or are enrolled in CURR 210** Public Purposes of Education: Democracy and Schooling at MSU. Math majors must have completed the 11 credits listed above.

Students who transfer to MSU with **60 or more credits** that are seeking **Early Childhood (P-3) or Elementary (K-5) certification** may apply to the program immediately if they have **completed 9 credits of major courses, including Child Development I**, from their previous college or MSU, and if they have **completed or are enrolled in ECEL 200** Perspectives in Early Childhood & Elementary Education in a Democracy at MSU.

3. Applying for Admission

Undergraduate students must apply for admission to the Teacher Education Program. This admissions process is separate from admission to the University or to a major. Applications are online at http://cehs.montclair.edu/academic/cop/application_for_admission.pdf and are generally due at the start of the fall and spring semesters for admission for the following term (contact an advisor for the exact date that applies to you). Once you are accepted, you are permitted to enroll in the “professional sequence,” which (along with your major and general education requirements) leads to student teaching and completion of the Program. Students must pass all required Praxis II exam(s) in order to student teach and ultimately complete the Teacher Education Program at MSU. Undergraduates are eligible to take the Praxis II once they have completed 90 semester hours. It is also important to note that students must maintain a minimum overall G.P.A. of 2.75 as well as the minimum G.P.A. required specifically for the major(s) as shown on the previous page in order to complete the Program successfully.

4. Staying Informed

Teacher education adds a layer of complexity to students’ schedules and graduation requirements and requires a high level of initiative and follow-through. There are many deadlines, policies, and procedures that all future and current teacher education students need to be aware of as they progress through the Program. For detailed and up-to-date information, use the following resources:

- Your major advisor and your teacher education advisor (visit them every semester)
Teacher Education Subject Advisor, Ruth Berenson 973-655-7799
Teacher Education P-3/K-5 Advisor, Adrina Quadrel 973-655-7181
- Our Web site, at: <http://cehs.montclair.edu/academic/cop/teacher/>
- The Teacher Education Program Handbook (available at our Web site)
- Center of Pedagogy Blackboard Community (students are automatically enrolled when they take ECEL200 or CURR210, but may be enrolled sooner by emailing Pat Gagnon at gagnonp@mail.montclair.edu).
- **Special note for those students interested in teaching middle school science, math, world languages, English, or social studies:** students can either pursue P-12 subject certification in that area or pursue Elementary (grades K-5) certification and apply on their own to the state for a middle school certificate after graduation (we currently do not offer a middle school program at MSU). The latter option requires having 15 credits and a passing middle school Praxis score in the subject area. Students should seek advisement and plan carefully in order to complete these 15 credits while completing their undergraduate degree. Due to current job market conditions, we strongly advise students planning to pursue Elementary (grades K-5) certification to consider additional endorsements in middle school content areas and in TESL and Teacher of Students with Disabilities.

For additional questions about the Teacher Education Program, please contact
Charity Dacey, Director of Teacher Education Admissions & Retention at 973-655-7250 or
Margaret Miller, Secretary, Teacher Education Admissions & Retention at 973-655-7976
or visit us in University Hall, Suite 1160.