



Special Education Undergraduate

Student Handbook

Fall 2025/Spring 2026

Department of Special Education
West Chester University
West Chester, Pennsylvania 19383
(610) 436-2579

Welcome to the Department of Special Education!

Congratulations on your decision to pursue a teaching career. We have prepared this handbook to assist you as you progress through our undergraduate programs towards a Bachelor of Science in Education (B.S.Ed.) in Special Education. This document along with a copy of the *WCU Undergraduate Catalog* should be referenced for policies, guidelines, course selection and other important information that will impact you as a student in the Special Education department and at the university.

Effective teachers are developed from strong professional programs. Such programs incorporate broad knowledge of the world and its people, human development, and pre-professional experiences. Professional growth also involves understanding the ways children can be helped to interact with the curriculum to make learning the most productive experience possible. Furthermore, knowledge of and the ability to use a variety of teaching strategies effectively, is a measure that distinguishes the master teacher. In an atmosphere of mutual respect between faculty and students, the Department of Special Education prepares future teachers to be effective educators.

Best wishes for a successful and rewarding undergraduate experience.

DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

Recitation Hall, Room 304

(610) 436-2579

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Department Administration:

Department Chair: Dr. Beatrice Adera

Assistant Chair: Dr. Dawn Patterson

Field Experience and Student Teaching Coordinator: Dr. Dawn Patterson

Graduate Coordinator: Dr. Tara Guerriero

Assessment Coordinator: Colleen Commisso

Mission of the Special Education Program

We, the faculty of the Special Education Program, are committed to supporting the development of teachers who acquire the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to construct effective, high quality educational programs for children with disabilities. Our mission is to foster knowledgeable, passionate, competent, and reflective program graduates who will serve as eloquent and articulate advocates for all children, families, and the special education professionals.

BSED in Special Education

The focus of the PK-12 Special Education certificate will be to equip teacher candidates with the knowledge, competencies, and skills necessary to teach in different settings/different grade levels serving students with disabilities. Students will have the opportunity to pursue Special Education certification as a stand-alone or a double major with another certification area [early grades Pk-4 or middle grades 4-8]. Depending on your program, you will complete specific general education courses to fulfill requirements for the different distributive areas - you are strongly advised to reference your program guidance sheet and/or consult with special education faculty advisor for clarification of any special education program-specific information.

<https://catalog.wcupa.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/>

Teacher Candidacy is the process that confirms your intent to pursue teacher certification in a teacher education program at West Chester University. Access to designated advanced professional education courses is restricted to teacher candidates who have received the Teacher Candidacy status. Also, to be cleared for graduation, all undergraduate students must complete the following requirements:

1. Complete all coursework - refer to undergraduate catalog/program guidance sheet
2. Achieve Teacher Candidacy Status
3. Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 with grades of C and above in all special education courses

Upon completion of the degree program and achievement of passing scores on state certification exams, the student qualifies for a Pennsylvania Instructional I Certificate which will be valid for six years. Passing scores on state certification exams are not required for graduation, however, you will not be recommended for certification without passing scores.

Program Structure

Our program provides its students with field placements and experiences in the same block of courses where they are concurrently learning characteristics, teaching methods, application, and theory. Integral to the success of such experience is the necessity to provide students with opportunities to reflect and question what they observe and experience in the different placements. In this way, students will always have the opportunity to integrate theory and practice.

The field experiences are designed to give students first-hand experience with children with disabilities served in different kinds of placements across the continuum of disabilities and across different grade bands. The course work taken concurrently with field experiences will allow students to integrate theory with practice and exposure to current research on effective teaching. Students will also complete a variety of supporting courses and fulfill other special education requirements.

Students must get a C or better in all Special Education Courses, maintain a 2.8 GPA, and achieve a final GPA of 3.0 to be eligible for graduation with a B.S.Ed. in Special Education.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS OF STUDY

Students will have the option to seek additional certification in any one of the following areas: Early Grades Preparation (EGP) or Middle Grades Preparation (MGP). Also, students may also pick a minor in any of the different areas of study.

UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG

Students should consult the WCU Undergraduate Catalog <http://catalog.wcupa.edu> for the year they entered - the catalog is the official guide for completing requirements for graduation and certification.

Professional Dispositions and Requirements

The Educator Preparation Programs at West Chester University have developed professional dispositions and requirements essential for the profession. These dispositions are based on the 2011 [Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium \(InTASC\) Model Core Teaching Standards](#). Candidates have the opportunity to demonstrate dispositions in courses (assignments, interactions with others) and out in the field with mentor teachers and students in P-12 settings. For additional details, refer to the professional dispositions' webpage via link below.
<https://www.wcupa.edu/education-socialWork/dispositions.aspx>

ADVISING

Although advisement in the department is facilitated by faculty members from the department, it is the *responsibility of the student* to become familiar with university and department procedures and policies; degree program, including course prerequisites and requirements; and university registration procedures. We firmly believe that the more ownership you have to the successful completion of your degree program at the university, the better prepared you will be when you graduate. It is important that you check the following on an ongoing basis:

- RAM portal
- Degree Audit
- WCU email
- Special Education Department Website
- WCU/CESW social media Pages

The guidance sheet and recommended pacing guide for your program of study can be found at the back of this handbook. The Degree Audit available via RAM portal shows all the courses you have taken and grades you have earned - it should be accessed periodically and checked for accuracy.

Self-scheduling occurs near the middle of the semester, and involves the following steps:

- 1) Log in to RAM portal to review your degree audit – this shows all courses completed and associated grades. The audit also lists all other program requirements that you will be expected to complete.
- 2) *Advising Appointment* - you **must** meet your faculty advisor to review your progress; address any questions you may have and remove your advisor hold. It is important that you reference your pacing guide and build a "tentative schedule" in RAM portal before your advisor appointment. Some advisors require students to sign-up for appointments, while others have walk-in appointments – your EDA advisor will provide guidance on their preferred process.
- 3) During your appointment, your advisor will review your “tentative schedule” and discuss other issues that may be relevant (i.e., your grades, your teacher candidacy status etc.).

- 4) When your scheduling window opens, you will enroll in your approved courses via RAM portal – it is important that you schedule your courses as soon as possible following your appointed time; seats in your preferred course sections fill up fast!
- 5) Remember to logoff properly if using a computer in a public computer lab!

Your faculty advisor is assigned by the department and noted on RAM portal.

Every student in the Special Education major will be assigned a special education faculty advisor during your first semester. Our Student Success Coordinators are also available for additional academic advising support.

Ms. Michelle Adkins	201B Recitation Hall	Madkins@wcupa.edu	610-436-2521
Mr. Thom Nixon	201A Recitation Hall	Tnixon@wcupa.edu	610-436-3408

FIELD COURSES

When scheduling field experience courses, students must set aside time for field and must have plans in place for transportation to field. It is important to note that WCU does not provide transportation to field, and most field placements are within a one-hour radius from WCU. Also, most placements are in areas that may not have reliable public transportation.

Students must obtain clearances for each course containing field experiences in accordance with state statutes. Pennsylvania Criminal Record Checks, FBI fingerprinting and Pennsylvania Child Abuse Record checks are required for all who enter a school. The Pennsylvania Criminal Record Checks, FBI fingerprinting and Pennsylvania Child Abuse Record checks are valid for one calendar year and must be completed prior to the first field course in which you enroll and updated every year. For Special Education double majors with Early Grades Preparation, the TB Test must be no older than 3 months before the first field class for a program (not the first field class for the academic year or semester). If you currently have a TB test that is less than a year from the read date, please contact the Office of Candidate Services at 610-436-2999. All other majors - no retest is needed until applying for student teaching except in rare cases. Some school districts hosting early field students and student teachers require a TB test issued within the year they begin their school district assignment.

NOTE: School district requirements take precedence over university policy - it is recommended not to retest until one year after the "date read" of previous TB report.

Failure to maintain a current set of clearances will prevent you from enrollment and/or may require your dismissal from field-based courses, blocked classes, and student teaching.

TEACHER CANDIDACY STATUS

All students seeking a B.S. Ed. must meet the following requirements to achieve the Teacher Candidacy status. Requirements include:

- Enrolled in a program leading to teacher certification or educational specialist
- Earned a minimum of 48 credits at the college level (100 level or above)
- Earned a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.8
- Earned 3 credits in college-level English composition
- Earned 3 credits in literature taught in English
- Earned 6 credits in college-level mathematics

Only students who have achieved teacher candidacy status will be eligible to enroll for designated

advanced professional education coursework. These students must maintain the required GPA to continue taking advanced professional education coursework.

PENNSYLVANIA TESTS

To receive Pennsylvania Department of Education state approval, any person seeking an Instructional I certificate in Special Education in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania must achieve at least the minimum scores on the PRAXIS tests determined by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

All PA tests required by your major must be taken prior to student teaching.

Important Note: Since tests change often, you are strongly advised to confirm this information with the CESW Certification Office [610] 436-2413] before registering for tests.

STUDENT TEACHING

Students who have completed all prerequisite professional education, specialized preparation courses, and achieved Teacher Candidacy status prior to the student teaching semester will be eligible for student teaching.

Everyone must attend a Student Teaching Meeting at least one full year prior to their student teaching semester. Pay close attention to emails sent from the Office of Clinical Experiences and Candidate Services and signs posted in Recitation Hall announcing the meeting dates and times.

Applications for student teaching should be directed to the Office of Clinical Experience and Candidate Services. Placement of student teachers is the prerogative of the College of Education and the Department of Special Education. **Students may not seek to make their own placement agreements with schools or teachers.**

CERTIFICATION

To teach in the public schools in Pennsylvania, you must graduate from a teacher education program and demonstrate that you have completed all requirements for certification. Upon this demonstration, the Dean of College of Education will recommend you to PDE for certification. To be recommended to Pennsylvania Department of Education you must complete the following:

1. A state-approved teacher education program including a student teaching experience.
2. Pass all PA tests required for your major(s).
3. Complete an online application to the Pennsylvania Department of Education-for additional information please visit -<https://www.wcupa.edu/education-socialWork/certificationInfo.aspx>
4. Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.

GRADUATION

Graduation from West Chester University is not automatic - each student must apply for graduation online through the RAM portal at least one full semester prior to the date of graduation. All requirements for your program must be completed before graduation. Any students who plan to finish their course work in the summer (to graduate in August) may “walk” at the May ceremony. Listed below are the deadlines for applying for graduation:

<u>Graduation</u>	<u>Deadline for Application</u>
December	June 30
May	December 30

(Names of students who apply after these deadlines may not be printed in the Graduation Program.)

CO-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

A variety of organizations and activities are available to students in our department. In the areas of special education, the Department offers student membership in the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) and Best Buddies. Pennsylvania Student Education Association (PSEA) is a co-curricular club representing every department and for honors students, a chapter of Kappa Delta Pi (education) and a chapter of Alpha Upsilon Alpha (reading) are active on campus.

UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE OR MINOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY

In addition to your major, you are encouraged to pursue an undergraduate certificate or a minor program. Undergraduate certificates or minors outside of the College of Education provide educators with the opportunity to deepen their knowledge and skills in an area that complements their major studies. Students interested in pursuing an undergraduate certificate or minor program of study within the Special Education Department should consult with their faculty advisor first. Students interested in pursuing a certificate/minor program outside of the Department should consult with the chairperson of the department that offers the program.

Special Education Certificates/Minor	Credits Earned
Autism Education Minor	12
Undergraduate Certificate in Early Intervention	12
Undergraduate Certificate in Trauma Informed Education	12 [under approval]

Note

The WCUPA Undergraduate Catalog houses all university policies. The Special Education Student Handbook serves as an additional resource for special education majors but does not supersede Undergraduate Catalog policy. The Department of Special Education reserves the right to change any provisions and/or requirements at any time.

INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION MAJORS/MINORS

Qualified students will have the opportunity to participate in international experiences. Contact the following faculty to discuss different opportunities:

- **Kenya** - contact Dr. Beatrice Adera at badera@wcupa.edu
- **Guatemala** - contact Dr. Dawn Patterson at dpatterson@wcupa.edu
- **Eleuthera** - Dr. Claire Verden at cverden@wcupa.edu and Dr. Christy Hicks shicks@wcupa.edu
- **Ireland** - Dr. Mary Houser at mhouser@wcupa.edu and Dr. Tara Guerriero

College of Education and Social Work

Mission, Vision, & Conceptual framework

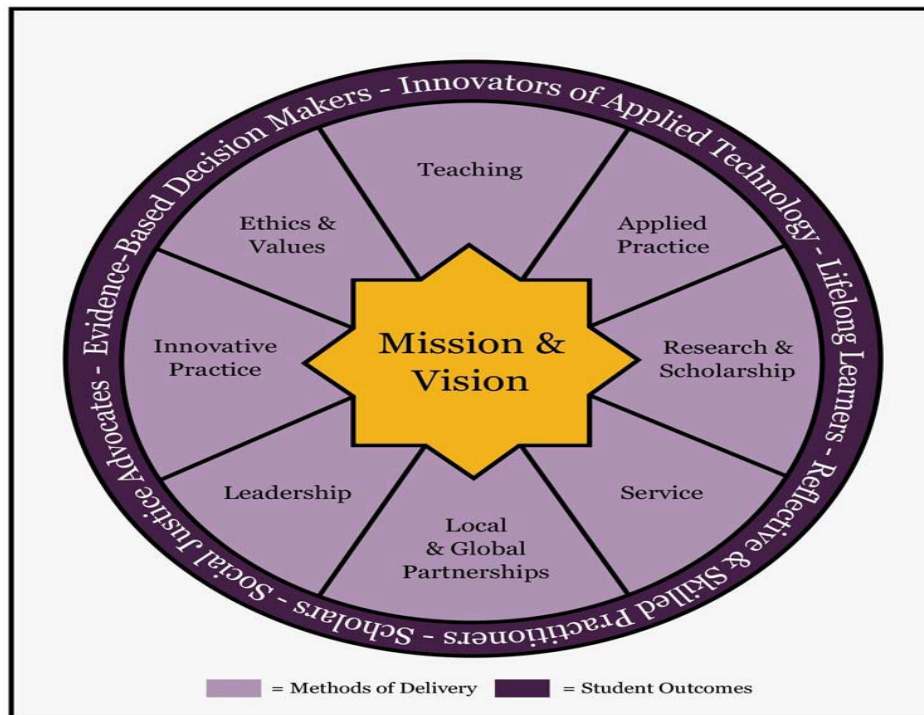
Mission

The College of Education and Social Work (CESW) prepares highly skilled and ethical professionals to become fair-minded critical thinkers and change agents who act with integrity in the pursuit of knowledge and strive for excellence within their professions. The CESW fosters a culture of reflection, evidenced-based practices, intellectual discourse, and respect for human diversity. CESW empowers students to make a significant impact on the world to improve individual and family lives and strengthening educational, health or community systems.

Vision

The West Chester University College of Education and Social Work embraces a transformative vision of learning as a life-long endeavor. We will be a leader in preparing professionals who advance social justice and address the contemporary challenges of a global society.

Conceptual Framework



**Program Guidance Sheet
B.S.Ed. Special Education Pk-12
(120 Credits)**

I. ACADEMIC FOUNDATIONS (19 credits)	Course	Credits	Grade
English Composition	WRT 120	3	_____
	WRT 200	3	_____
Mathematics	MAT 101	3	_____
Diverse Communities	^LAN 382	3	_____
Interdisciplinary	EDF 255	3	_____
First Year Experience	FYE	4	_____

II. DISTRIBUTIVE REQUIREMENTS (21 credits)

Science

The Carbon Cycle	SCI 101	3	_____
	or		
Electricity w/ Physical & Biological Applications	SCI 102	3	_____
	and		
Basic Biological Science	BIO 100	3	_____
(Transfer students who have completed two science courses in <u>two different disciplines</u> (BIO, ESS, PHY, CHE) before enrolling in EGP at WCU, may substitute these courses for SCI 101 and SCI 102. All course substitutions must meet general education requirements. See the approved general education course listing in the undergraduate catalog.			

Behavioral and Social Sciences

PSC, GEO	GEO 101 is required	3	_____
	PSC 100 is required	3	_____

Humanities

Literature	LIT 220 is required	3	_____
History (American History survey course is required)	HIS 150 is required	3	_____

The Arts

	MDA 240 is required	3	_____
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III. ELECTIVES (9 credits)

Students wishing to graduate in 120 credits must utilize their electives to complete their professional core courses. See reverse.

IV. WRITING EMPHASIS COURSES (9 credits)

The following program requirements will meet the writing emphasis requirement:

EDR 305, EDA 203, EDA 314

Three writing emphasis courses are required for students with 0-39 transfer credits; two for students with 40-70 transfer credits; one for students with more than 70 transfer credits. **These credits are counted below in the Professional Core.**

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PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION REQUIREMENTS

Teacher Candidacy Requirements: 48 earned college level credits; 2.8 cumulative GPA; 3 earned credits in college level English composition; 3 earned credits in English literature; 6 earned credits in college-level mathematics. Apply for Candidacy before 60 credits.

V. PROFESSIONAL CORE COURSES (68 credits plus 12 credits of student teaching)

MAT 102 Math for Teachers of Children II (MAT 101)	3	
EDP 250 Educational Psychology	3	
+EDR 305 (3) Teaching Language Arts Pk-8 (W ; S) (EDP 250)	3	
+ EDR 303 (3) Foundations in Reading Pk-8 (EDP 250)	3	
^+EDR 317 Reading Instruction and Practicum PreK – 4 (EDR 303, 305, EDP 250)	6	
MAT 351 Methods for Teaching Children Mathematics I (MAT 101, 102)	3	
MAT 352 Methods for Teaching Children Mathematics II (MAT 101, 102, 351)	3	
EDA 103 Foundations of Special Education	3	
^EDA 203 Field: Students with Exceptionalities (W) (EDA 103)	3	
EDA 314 Curriculum and Instruction I (EDA 103, 203) W	3	
+EDA 316 Development and Instructional Methods for Students with Exceptionalities (EDA 103, 203)	3	
^EDA 321 Behavior Management and Field Experience (EDA 103, 203)	6	
EDA 324 Trauma Informed Education (EDA 103)	3	
EDA 325 Culturally Responsive Teaching for Diverse Exceptional Learners (J) (EDA 103)	3	
+EDA 327 Educating Students with Significant and Complex Support Needs (EDA 103, 203, 321)	2	
EDA 362 – Assessment for Students with Exceptionalities I (EDA 103, 203)	3	
+EDA 363 – Assessment for Students with Exceptionalities II (E) (EDA 103, 203, 362)	3	
+EDA 413 – Life Transitions for Students with Exceptionalities I (EDA 103, 203, 362, 363)	3	
^+EDA 421 Curriculum & Instruction II & Field (S) (EDA 103, 203, 314, 321, 327, 361 or 362, 363)	6	
^+EDA 416/417 Student Teaching – Special Education (S) (all special education courses)	12	
Elective Course	3	

Students attend pre-registration meetings scheduled one year before student teaching.

^ **Current Field Clearances Required:** Criminal background, PA Child Abuse, FBI Fingerprinting and tuberculosis test results.

Review Section Topic/Text to Student in Ram Portal for field requirements including days and times.

+ Candidacy required

(**W**) Writing Emphasis, (**J**) Diversity Course, (**I**) Interdisciplinary Course, () courses listed in parentheses are prerequisites

Graduation: Students must attain a 3.0 GPA for graduation and a minimum grade of 'C' in all Special Ed courses.

Certification: Students must pass all tests as required by The Pennsylvania Department of Education for PA teacher licensures. See CESW website

**Suggested Pacing Guide for EDA Stand Alone- 120 Credits
Special Education (PK-12)**

Semester 1 (16 - 18 credits)	Semester 2 (15 credits)
FYE (4)	WRT 200 (3)
WRT 120 (3) OR WRT 123 (4)	MAT 102 (3)
MAT 101 (3) OR MAT 100 (4)	LIT 220 (3)
EDA 103 (3)	^EDA 203 (3)
Select 3 credits from: SCI 101 OR 102; GEO 101; PSC 100; HIS 150; BIO 100	Select 3 credits from: SCI 101 OR 102; GEO 101; PSC 100; HIS 150; BIO 100
Semester 3 (15 credits)	Semester 4 (15 credits)
^EDA 321 (6)	EDA 314 (3)
EDP 250 (3)	Select 3 credits from: EDF 255 (3) or MDA 240 (3)
Select 3 credits from: MDA 240 (3) or EDF 255 (3)	Select 3 credits from: LAN 382, OR EDA 324, OR EDA 325 (3)
Select 3 credits from: SCI 101 OR 102; GEO 101; PSC 100; HIS 150; BIO 100	Select 6 credits from: SCI 101 OR 102; GEO 101; PSC 100; HIS 150; BIO 100
Semester 5 (15 credits)	Semester 6 (17 credits)
EDA 362 (3)	+ EDA 327 (2)
MAT 351 (3)	+ EDA 363 (3)
EDR 303 (3)	+ EDA 316 (3)
EDR 305 (3)	^+EDR 317 (6)
Select 3 credits from: LAN 382, OR EDA 324, OR EDA 325 (3)	Select 3 credits from: LAN 382, OR EDA 324, OR EDA 325 (3)
Semester 7 (15 credits)	Semester 8 (12 credits)
+ EDA 413	EDA 416 (6) (Student Teaching)
+MAT 352 (3)	EDA 417 (6) (Student Teaching)
Elective – select one course from the list below	
^+EDA 421 (6)	

EDA Standalone Pacing Guide Key:

• + Teacher Candidacy required - apply end of semester 4

^ Current field Clearances Required: Criminal background, PA Child Abuse, FBI Fingerprinting, and tuberculosis test results.

WRT 120/123; WRT 200; MAT 101; MAT 102; LIT 220 must be completed by semester 3

Application for Teacher Candidacy submitted by semester 4

EDR 303 & EDR 305 [offered during Fall only – EDP 250 is a prerequisite and must be completed by semester 4]

EDA 362 [offered during Fall only and is pre-requisite for EDA 363, EDA 413, and EDA 421]

EDA 363 [offered during Spring only and is pre-requisite for EDA 363, EDA 413, and EDA 421]

Elective Options - EDA 175, EDA 326 or EDA 331 [other courses will to be approved on a case-by-case basis]

Updated 07/25

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Program Guidance Sheet - Double Major

B.S.Ed. Special Education Pk-12 (143 Credits) B.S.Ed. Early Grades Preparation Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 4 Updated 07/25

I. ACADEMIC FOUNDATIONS (19 credits)

Course Credits

Grade

English Composition	WRT 120	3	_____
	WRT 200	3	_____
Mathematics	MAT 101	3	_____
Diverse Communities	LAN 382 (J)	3	_____
Interdisciplinary	EDF 255	3	_____
First Year Experience	FYE 100	4	_____

II. DISTRIBUTIVE REQUIREMENTS (21 credits)

Science

Earth and Its Systems	SCI 101	3	_____
Life, Matter, and Energy	SCI 102	3	_____

(Transfer students who have completed two science courses in two different disciplines (BIO, ESS, PHY, CHE) before enrolling in EGP at WCU, may substitute these courses for SCI 101 and SCI 102. Transfer students who have completed one science course will be required to complete SCI 101 or SCI 102. SCB 102 and ESS 102 are considered “I” courses and will not be accepted as meeting the science requirements) Any course substitutions must meet general education requirements. See the approved general education course listing in the undergraduate catalog.

Behavioral and Social Sciences

PSC, GEO	GEO 101 is required	3	_____
	PSC 100 is required	3	_____

Humanities

Literature	LIT 219 is required	3	_____
History	HIS 150 is required	3	_____

(American History survey course is required)

The Arts

	MDA 240 is required	3	_____
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III. ELECTIVES (9 credits)

Students wishing to graduate in 143 credits and be eligible for Early Grades PreK-4 and Special Education PreK-12 certifications, must utilize their electives to complete their professional core courses. See reverse.

IV. WRITING EMPHASIS COURSES (3 courses)

The following program requirements will meet the writing emphasis requirement:

EGP 220, EGP 322, EDR 304, EDA 203

Three writing emphasis courses are required for students with 0-39 transfer credits; two for students with 40-70 transfer credits; one for students with more than 70 transfer credits.

PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION REQUIREMENTS

Teacher Candidacy Requirements: 48 earned college level credits; 2.8 cumulative GPA; 3 earned credits in college level English composition; 3 earned credits in English literature; 6 earned credits in college-level mathematics. Apply for Candidacy before 60 credits.

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V. PROFESSIONAL CORE COURSES (91 credits plus 12 credits of student teaching)

MAT 102 Math for Teachers of Children II	3	_____
EGP 209 Child Development – Prebirth through 5 years	3	_____
EGP 210 Middle Childhood and Adolescent Development	3	_____
EDP 250 Educational Psychology	3	_____
EDA 103 Foundations of Special Education	3	_____
^EDA 203 Field: Students with Exceptionalities (EDA 103) (W)	3	_____
^EDA 321 Behavior Management and Field Experience (EDA 103, EDA 203)	6	_____
EDA 314 Curriculum & Instruction for Individual Learning Differences I (W) (EDA 103, EDA 203)	3	_____
+EDA 361 Assessment & Special Education (EDA 103, EDA 203)	3	_____
EDA 324 Trauma Informed Education (EDA 103)	3	_____
EDA 325 Culturally Responsive Practices for Diverse Exceptional Learners (EDA 103) (J)	3	_____
+EDA 327 Educating Students with Significant and Complex Support Needs (Pre reqs - EDA 103, 203, 321)	2	_____
+EDA 413 PreK-12 Transition for Individuals with Disabilities (EDA 103, 203, 361)	3	_____
^+EDA 421 Curriculum & Instruction for Individual Learning Differences II & Field (Pre reqs - EDA 103, 203, 314, 321, 327, 361)	6	_____
^EGP 220 Theory and Field Experience in the Early Grades (EGP 210) (W, SE)	3	_____
EDR 304 Language Arts in Early Education PreK-4 (EGP 210) (W)	3	_____
^EDR 307 Foundations in Reading PK-4 (EGP 210)	3	_____
^EGP 322 Pre-Kindergarten Methods and Field Experiences (EGP 209) (W)	6	_____
^EGP 326 Families and Community Relations (EGP 209, EGP 210) (J)	3	_____
LAN 382 Teaching English Language Learners (ELLs) PK-12 (credits are listed with Academic Foundations)		
ERM 353 Assessment for Learning: Early Grades (EGP 220) (E)	3	_____
MAT 351 Methods for Teaching Children Mathematics I (MAT 101, MAT 102)	3	_____
^MAT 361 Field Experiences in Elementary School Mathematics (MAT 101, MAT 102).	2	_____
+SCE 320 Science Methods for Grades PK-4 (Gen.Ed. MAT and SCI)	3	_____
+EGP 335 Teaching Social Studies and Health in Early Grades	3	_____
^+EDR 317 Reading Instruction & Practicum PreK-4 (EGP 220, EDR 304, EDR 307)	6	_____
+EGP 400 Classroom Management (pre or coreq. EDR 317) (*EGP 400 is the only class allowed with student teaching)	3	_____
+EGP 402 Engaging Learners (EGP 322 or EDR 317) (W)	3	_____
^+EGP 410/411 (SE) and EDA 416/417 (SE) Student Teaching (all professional core coursework)	12	_____

Students attend pre-registration meetings scheduled one year before student teaching.

^ **Current Field Clearances Required:** Criminal background, PA Child Abuse, FBI Fingerprinting and tuberculosis test results. Review *Ramportal Class notes* for field requirements including days and times.

+ **Candidacy required, (W) Writing Emphasis, (J) Diversity Course, (E) Ethics, (I) Interdisciplinary Course, SE Speaking Emphasis.** () courses listed in parentheses are prerequisites

Graduation: Students must attain a 3.0 GPA for graduation and a minimum grade of ‘C’ in all Special Ed courses.

Certification: Students must pass all tests as required by The Pennsylvania Department of Education for PA teacher licensures. See CESW website

Suggested Pacing Guide for Double Majors, EGP/EDA (143+ Credits)
Early Grades Preparation (Pk-4) and Special Education (PK-12)
Updated 07/25

Semester 1 (16-18 Credits)	Semester 2 (18 Credits)
FYE 100 (4)	WRT 200 (3)
EGP 209 (3)	LIT 219 (3)
EDA 103 (3)	MAT 102 (3)
WRT 120 (3) OR WRT 123 (4)	EGP 210 (3)
MAT 101 (3) OR MAT 100 (4)	^EDA 203 OR ^EGP 220 (3)
	Select 3 credits from: HIS 150; SCI 101; SCI 102; GEO 101; PSC 100; MDA 240; EDF 255; OR EDP 250 (3)
Semester 3 (18 Credits)	Semester 4 (18 Credits)
Select 3 credits from: ^EGP 220 OR ^EDA 203 (3)	Select 6 credits from: ^EDA 321 OR ^EGP 322 (6)
Select 3 credits from: EDR 304 OR ^EDR 307 (3)	Select 3 credits from: EDR 304 OR ^EDR 307 (3)
Select 12 credits from: HIS 150; SCI 101; SCI 102; GEO 101; PSC 100; MDA 240; EDF 255; OR EDP 250	Select 9 credits from: HIS 150; SCI 101; SCI 102; GEO 101; PSC 100; MDA 240; EDF 255; OR EDP 250
Semester 5 (17 Credits)	Semester 6 (15 - 17 credits)
Select 6 credits from: ^EDA 321 OR ^EGP 322 (6)	Select 3 credits from: LAN 382 OR ^EGP 326 (3)
Select 3 credits from: LAN 382 OR ^EGP 326 (3)	Select 6 credits: EDA 324 + EDA 325 (6) <u>OR</u> EDA 314 & +EDA 361 (6)
Select 6 credits: EDA 324 + EDA 325 (6) OR EDA 314 & +EDA 361 (6)	Select 6 – 8 credits from: +SCE 320; +EGP 335; ERM 353; MAT 351 (3) + ^MAT 361(2)
EDA 327 (2)	
Semester 7 (15 – 17 Credits)	Semester 8 (12 – 15 Credits)
Select 6 credits from: +^EDR 317 OR +^EDA 421 (6)	Select 6 credits from: +^EDR 317 OR +^EDA 421 (6)
Select 3 credits from: +EGP 402 OR +EGP 400 (3)	Select 3 credits from: +EGP 402 OR +EGP 400 (3)
Select 6 – 8 credits from: +SCE 320; +EGP 335; ERM 353; MAT 351 (3) + ^MAT 361(2)	+EDA 413 (3)
Semester 9 (12 Credits)	
+^EGP 410/411 (6) (Student Teaching)	
+^EDA 416/417 (6) (Student Teaching)	

EGP/EDA Pacing Guide Key:

- + Teacher Candidacy - Application submitted by semester 4
- ^ Current field Clearances Required: Criminal background, PA Child Abuse, FBI Fingerprinting, and tuberculosis test results.
- WRT 120/123; WRT 200; MAT 101; MAT 102; LIT 219 should be completed by semester 3
- HIS 150; SCI 101; SCI 102; GEO 101; PSC 100; MDA 240; and EDF 255 should be completed by semester 4
- EDA 361 is a pre-requisite for EDA 413 and EDA 421
- All courses must be completed prior to ST (exception: EGP 400 which may be completed while student teaching)

To complete program in 8 semesters, students should plan summer or winter courses - speak to your faculty advisor

NOTE: Review Section Topic/Text to Student in Ram Portal for field requirements including days and times

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**Degree Guidance Sheet
Special Education Pk-12
Middle Grades Preparation—Grades 4 through 8
(Variable Credits: 140+) (Amended 07/25)**

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

I. Academic Foundations (19 credits) (6 credit overlap with IV. Content Areas)

English Composition I WRT 120 (3) or WRT 123 (4)	First Year Experience Course FYE 100(4)
English Composition II WRT 200 (3)	Diverse Communities Course LAN 382 (3) (J) Teaching English Language Learners (ELLs) PK-12
Mathematics MAT 101 (3) or MAT 100 (4) Utilized for 4-8 certification math requirement.	Interdisciplinary Course ESS 102 (3), SCB 102 (3), or SCB 210 (3) Utilized for 4-8 certification science requirement.

II. General Education Distributive Requirements (21 credits) (15 credit overlap with IV. Content Areas)

Sciences (6 credits)	Behavioral and Social Sciences (6 credits)	Humanities (6 credits)	Arts (3 credits)
SCI 101 SCI 102 Please see below for options that can be utilized for 4-8 certification science requirements.	GEO 101 PSC 100 GEO 101 and PSC 100 are utilized for 4-8 certification social-studies requirements.	LIT 220 Children's Literature HIS 150 (or HIS 151 if social studies concentration) See below for HIS options for 4-8 certification social- studies requirements.	MDA 240

III. General Education Electives (9 credits)

Nine credits of general-education electives are required for graduation. Students wishing to be eligible for grades 4-8 certification and special education Pk-12 certification must utilize their electives to complete their chosen area(s) of concentration. See below

IV. Writing Emphasis Courses

The following program requirements will meet the writing emphasis requirement: MGP220, MGP 335, EDR 306
Three writing emphasis courses are required for students with 0-39 transfer credits; two for students with 40-70 transfer credits; one for students with more than 70 transfer credits. One must be at the 300 level.

PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION FOR GRADES 4-8 AND SPECIAL EDUCATION PK-12 TEACHER CERTIFICATION

I. Candidacy and Testing Requirements

Candidacy Requirements: 48 earned college level credits; 2.8 cumulative GPA; 6 earned credits in college-level English composition and literature taught in English; and 6 earned credits in college-level mathematics. Submit Declaration of Concentration on Ramportal.

Testing Requirements:

Praxis for all EDA Students: Special Education: Core Knowledge and Applications (5355);

Praxis II for all MGP students: PA Grades 4-8 Core Assessment (5152)

Praxis II tests for concentrations: PA G 4-8 SC: English Language Arts (5156); PA G 4-8 SC: Mathematics (5158); PA G 4-8 SC: Science (5159); PA G 4-8 SC: Social Studies (5157)

II. Middle Level Core--required of all students wishing to obtain grades 4-8 certification (20 credits)

^EDP 250 Educational Psychology (3)	+ERM 354 Assessment for Learning—Middle Grades (3) (MGP 220) E
EDP 201 Young Adolescent/Adolescent Development and Learning Theories (3)	^+SCE 330 Science Methods for Middle Level (4-8) Education (3)
^ MGP 220 Field Experiences and the Middle-Level Environment (3) (EDP 201) W SE	^+MGP 335 Teaching Social Studies in Middle Grades (3) (MGP 220) W
	+MGP 400 Classroom Management & Engagement in the Middle Grades (2)

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Special Education Core – required of all students wishing to obtain special education certification (35 credits)

EDA 103 Foundations of Special Education (3)	EDA 325 - Culturally Responsive Practices for Diverse Exceptional Learners (3) (Prereq. 103) J
^EDA 203 Special Ed. Seminar and Field (3) (Prereq. EDA 103) W	+EDA 327 Educating Students with Significant and Complex Support Needs (2) (Prereqs. EDA 103, 203, 321, Candidacy)
EDA 314 Curriculum and Instruction I (3) (Prereqs. EDA 103, EDA 203) W	+EDA 361 Assessment and Special Education (3) (Prereqs. EDA 103, EDA 203, Candidacy) E
^EDA 321 Behavior Management and Field (6) (Prereqs. EDA 103, EDA 203)	+EDA 413 PreK-12 Transitions for Individuals with Disabilities (3) (Prereqs. EDA 103, EDA 203, EDA 361, Candidacy)
EDA 324 - Trauma Informed Education (3) (Prereq. EDA 103)	^+EDA 421 Curriculum and Instruction II (6) (Prereqs. EDA 314, EDA 361, Candidacy)

Key: ^course with field component, clearances needed: PA Criminal Background, PA Child Abuse, FBI Fingerprinting, and tuberculosis test results; Review class notes for required field times, and consult Department materials regarding placements and special conditions for field course sections; Follow procedures for scanning field clearances to remain enrolled in field classes; Review course pacing guide for field sequences + course requires Candidacy; J =Diversity course; E = Ethics Course; S = Speaking Emphasis Course; I =Interdisciplinary course; W=Writing Emphasis; () courses listed in parentheses are prerequisites

III. Academic Content Area Concentrations (54 credits)

Students wishing to obtain certification to teach in grades 4-8 must complete a minimum of 54 credits from the academic content areas.

- 12 credit hours of “generalist” coursework in two of four academic content areas: Mathematics, Reading/Language Arts, Science and Social Studies.
- 9 credit hours of “generalist” coursework in one of two academic content areas: History or Science
- 21 credit hours of concentration area coursework in one of the four academic areas
- Degree requirements can be completed within 141 credits, depending on track of interest.

For degree completion, students must complete one of the following content area concentration options:

A. Language Arts Concentration

1. 21 credits Language Arts
2. 12 credits Science
3. 9 credits Social Studies
4. 12 credits Mathematics

B. Science Concentration

1. 12 credits Language Arts
2. 21 credits Science
3. 9 credits Social Studies
4. 12 credits Mathematics

C. Social Studies Concentration

1. 12 credits Language Arts
2. 9 credits Science
3. 21 credits Social Studies
4. 12 credits Mathematics

D. Mathematics Concentration

1. 12 credits Language Arts
2. 12 credits Science
3. 9 credits Social Studies
4. 21 credits Mathematics

Reading/Language Arts

All students must complete the generalist 12 credits. See course catalog for prerequisite courses.

12 credit generalist area	21 credit concentration	30 credit concentration
EDR 306 (3) Teaching Language Arts 4-8 W (EDP 201) EDR 308 (3) Foundations in Reading 4-8 (EDP 201) ^+EDR 318 (6) Reading Instruction and Practicum (MGP 220, EDR 306 & 308)	12 credit generalist area plus: EDR 420 (3) Content Area Reading +SED 391 (3) Teaching Writing in the Middle School LIT 398 (3) Young Adult Literature (LIT 220)	21 credit concentration plus: ENG 201 (3) and one of the following: EDR 422 (3) or EDR 200 (J) (3), or LIT 360 (3) and one of the following: EDR 321 (3) or LIN/ENG 230 (3)

Sciences

All students must complete a minimum of 12 generalist credits*, nine of which are general education and "I". Students choosing a science concentration must plan generalist credits that serve as prerequisites to upper-level science classes. *Students taking the Social Studies concentration will complete a minimum of nine generalist science courses.

12 credit generalist area	21 credit concentration	30 credit concentration
All students must complete: ESS 102 (3), or SCB 102 (3), or SCB 210 (3) Select one course below: SCIENCE CONCENTRATORS SEE NOTE IN 21 CREDIT LIST [BIO & ESS Recommended] 1. ESS 101 (3) (gives access to courses in 21 cr) 2. BIO 110 (4) or BIO 100 (3)-see note in 21 cr. 3. CHE 107 & CRL 107 (5) or CHE 103 (3) & CRL 103 (1) 4. PHY 130 (4)	12 credits from generalist area plus: 9 advanced credits chosen from courses below. PREREQUISITES MUST BE COMPLETED IN ORDER TO TAKE ADVANCED COURSES 1. ESS 201, 204, 301, 307, 330, 331, 370 2. BIO 204, 214, 215, 217 (Prereq. BIO 110 or BIO 100 with an A or A-) 3. CHE 230 or CHE 104 & CRL 104 4. PHY 140	12 credits from generalist area plus: PREREQUISITES MUST BE COMPLETED IN ORDER TO TAKE ADVANCED COURSES ESS 111 or PHY 105 and 15 advanced credits chosen from advanced courses listed under 21 credit option.

Social Studies

All students must complete a minimum of 9 credits, all of which are general education. Students completing the 21-credit social studies concentration coursework will take 9-credits in the Science generalist area.

9 credit generalist area	21 credit concentration	30 credit concentration
HIS 150 (3) (soc. st concentrators -HIS 151) GEO 101 (3) PSC 100 (3)	GEO 101, PSC 100, from 9 credit generalist plus: HIS 151 HIS 152 (HIS 151) HIS 101 (GEO 101) ECO 111 (HIS 151) HIS 344	21 credit concentration plus: HIS 102 (HIS 101) ANT 102 PSC 255 or 370 (PSC 100)

Mathematics

All students must complete the generalist 12 credits, three of which are general education.

12 credit generalist area	21 credit concentration	30 credit concentration
MAT 101 (3) Math for Teachers of Children I MAT 102 (3) Math for Teachers of Children II (MAT 101) MAT 351 (3) plus ^+MAT 352 (3) <u>OR</u> ^+MAT 353 (3) (for Math Concentration)	12 credit generalist area plus: MAT 121 Statistics I MAT 312 Algebra for Teachers, Grade 4-8 MAT 313 Geometry for Teachers, Grade 4-8	21 credit concentration plus: MAT 115 (3) Algebra/Trig and MAT 145 Calculus for Life Sciences (3) or MAT 131 (3) Pre-Calculus and MAT 161 (4) Calculus I plus MAT 390 Seminar in Mathematics Ed.

IV. Student Teaching (12 credits) Students attend pre-registration meetings scheduled one year before student teaching.

^+MGP 410/411 and EDA 416/417 Student Teaching (12) (S)

Prereqs: Students must have completed all the Middle Level Core requirements listed in II above; all Special Education Core requirements in III above; all generalist coursework and all requirements for one, 21-credit concentrations listed in IV above; attempted all required PA Certification tests.

Middle Grades Preparation (MGP) Academic Content Area Concentrations

Reading/Language Arts

All students complete 12 generalist credits:

EDR 306 Teaching Language Arts 4-8

EDR 308 Foundations in Reading 4-8

EDR 318 Reading Instruction and Practicum 4-8

Students choosing a 21-credit concentration complete:

12 generalist credits, plus

EDR 420 Content Area Reading

SED 391 Teaching Writing in the Middle School

LIT 398 Young Adult Literature

Students choosing a 30-credit concentration complete (adds 9 extra credits to program 144):

21 credit concentration, plus

ENG 201 Introduction to English Studies

EDR 422 Seminar in Reading or LIT 360 Special Topics in Children's/Young Adult Literature or

EDR 200 Literacy, Diversity, and Equity in K-12 Classrooms (J)

EDR 321 Assessment and Instructional Interventions in Reading and Language Arts or

LIN/ENG 230 Introduction to Linguistics

Sciences

Students who choose to concentrate in science must carefully check pre-requisites before choosing science courses

All students complete 12 generalist credits (unless student completes social studies concentration – reduces science to 9 credit generalist);

SCB or ESS 102 Humans and the Environment or SCB 210 The Origins of Life and the Universe plus three courses in three of the five areas below:

1. ESS 101 Introduction to Geology

2. BIO 110 General Biology or BIO 100 Basic Biological Science

3. CHE 107 and CRL 107 General Chemistry (and lab) for Allied Health Sciences or CHE 103 and CRL 103 General Chemistry I (and lab)

4. PHY 130 General Physics I

5. SCI 101 Earth and its Systems or SCI 102 Life, Matter and Energy

If concentrating in science, select from areas 1-4 (BIO, CHE, ESS, PHY)

Students who choose to concentrate in science must carefully check pre-requisites before choosing science courses. BIO and ESS are recommended for science concentrators.

Students choosing a 21-credit concentration complete:

12 generalist credits, plus three additional courses from the following:

ESS 201 Fundamentals of Techniques in Geology, ESS 204 Historical Geology, ESS 301 Environmental Geochemistry, ESS 307 Geology of the Solar System, ESS 330 Introduction to Oceanography, ESS 331 Introduction to Paleontology, ESS 370 Introduction to Meteorology

BIO 204 Introductory Microbiology, BIO 214 General Microbiology, BIO 215 General Botany, BIO 217 General Zoology

CHE 104 and CRL 104 General Chemistry (and lab) II or CHE 230 Introduction to Organic and Biological Chemistry

PHY 140 General Physics II

Students choosing a 30-credit concentration complete (adds 9 extra credits to program 144):

21 credit concentration, plus

ESS 111 General Astronomy or PHY 105 Structure of the Universe and 6 additional credits listed as options in 21 credit concentration

Social Studies

All students complete 9 generalist credits:

GEO 101 World Geography

PSC 100 American Government and Politics

HIS 344 History of Pennsylvania

HIS 150 The American Experience (for students who intend to complete only the 12-credit generalist area) OR

HIS 151: History of United States I (for students concentrating in social studies)

Students choosing a 21-credit concentration complete (and reduce science concentration to 9 credits):

12 generalist credits, plus

HIS 152 History of United States II

HIS 101 History of Civilization I

ECO 111 Principles of Economics I

HIS 344 History of Pennsylvania

Students choosing a 30-credit concentration complete:

21 credit concentration, plus

HIS 102 History of Civilization II

ANT 102 Introduction to Anthropology: Cultural

PSC 255 State and Local Government or PSC 370 Pennsylvania Politics

Mathematics

All students complete 12 generalist credits:

MAT 101 Mathematics for Teachers of Children I

MAT 102 Mathematics for Teachers of Children II

MAT 351 Methods for Teaching Children Mathematics I

MAT 352 Methods for Teaching Children Mathematics II or MAT 353 if selecting Mathematics Concentration

Students choosing a 21-credit concentration complete:

12 generalist credits, plus

MAT 121 Statistics I

MAT 312 Algebra for Teachers in Grades 4-8 (offered once a year)

MAT 313 Geometry for Teachers in Grades 4-8 (offered once a year)

Students choosing a 30-credit concentration complete:

21 credit concentration, plus

MAT 115 College Algebra and Trigonometry and MAT 145 Calculus for Life Sciences

MAT 131 Precalculus and MAT 161 Calculus

MAT 390 Seminar in Mathematics Education (offered once a year)

Suggested Pacing Guide for Double Majors EDA/MGP (140+ credits)
Middle Grades Preparation 4-8 and Special Education (PK-12)
Updated 07/25

Semester 1 (16-18 Credits)	Semester 2 (18 Credits)
FYE (4)	EDP 250 (3)
EDP 201 (3)	^EDA 203 (3)
MAT 101 (3) OR MAT 100 (4)	MAT 102 (3)
EDA 103 (3)	WRT 200 (3)
WRT 120 (3) OR WRT 123 (4)	LIT 220 (3)
	ESS 102 (3)
Semester 3 (18 Credits)	Semester 4 (18 Credits)
^MGP 220 (3 credit field)	^EDA 321 (6 credit Field)
MDA 240 (3)	LAN 382 (3)
Select 12 credits from: SCI 101 (3); SCI 102 (3); HIS 150/151; PSC 100; BIO 100 OR 110; GEO 101 (3) *Science concentrators - add ESS 101 in lieu of SCI 102	Select 6 credits from: SCI 101 (3); SCI 102 (3); HIS 150 OR HIS 151; PSC 100; BIO 100 OR BIO 110; GEO 101 (3) *Science concentrators - add ESS 101 in lieu of SCI 102
	MAT 351 (3)
Semester 5 (14-15 Credits)	Semester 6 (14-15 credits)
Select 3 credits from Concentration	Select from 6 credits from Concentration
EDR 306 (3)	EDA 314 (3)
EDR 308 (3)	Select 2-3 credits from: EDA 324 OR EDA 325 (3) OR +EDA 327 (2)
Select 5-6 credits from: EDA 324 OR EDA 325 (3) OR +EDA 327 (2)	+EDA 361 (3)
Semester 7 (15 Credits)	Semester 8 (14 Credits)
Select 6 credits from: ^+EDR 318 OR ^+EDA 421 (6)	Select 6 credits from: ^+EDR 318 OR ^+EDA 421 (6)
Select 3 credits from: ^+MAT 352 (3) OR ^+MAT 353 (3)	+EDA 413 (3); +MGP 400 (2)
Select 3 credits from: ^+MGP 335 (3) OR +^SCE 330 (3)	Select 3 credits from: ^+MGP 335 (3) OR +^SCE 330 (3)
+ERM 354 (3) (must be taken with a field course)	
Semester 9 (12 Credits)	
^+MGP 410/411 (6) (Student Teaching)	
^+EDA 416/417 (6) (Student Teaching)	

MGP/EDA Pacing Guide Key and Notable Prerequisites

- + Teacher Candidacy required
- ^ Current field Clearances Required: Criminal background, PA Child Abuse, FBI Fingerprinting, and tuberculosis test results
- +EDA 361 is a prerequisite for +EDA 413
- ESS 102 meets Interdisciplinary Requirement (I)
- Math concentrators take ^+MAT 353 in lieu of ^+MAT 352
- Science concentrators should take BIO 110
- Science concentrators should take ESS 101 in lieu of SCI 102
- Social Studies Concentrators take HIS 151 in lieu of HIS 150
- Social Studies Concentrators add HIS 344 in Semester 5 or 8

NOTE: Review Section Topic/Text to Student in Ram Portal for field requirements including days and times