STEPS FOR ADMISSION TO THE UNDERGRADUATE TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM

The 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.

STUDENTS MUST 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 toward certification that is valid for grades P-12. Dance, Art, Music, and Physical Education/Health students may wish to teach in any of these grade levels, but students in the other subject areas (e.g., English, Social Studies) usually intend to teach a specific subject in grades 5 or higher.

Students in the Early Childhood Program work toward certification for Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 3 (P-3). Students in the Elementary Program work toward certification for grades Kindergarten through Grade 6 (K–6). Early Childhood and Elementary candidates usually intend to teach all or most academic subjects for one class of students.

Students in the Dual Degree/Dual Certification Inclusive Education Program (DD/DC) work toward certification in a content area (P-3, K-6, or subject area) AND Teacher of Students with Disabilities. Students in this program earn a Bachelor’s degree in the major and a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT).

The chart below shows the accepted majors and minimum overall and major GPA requirements for the Dual Degree/Dual Certification undergraduate and graduate initial teacher certification program offered at MSU.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CERTIFICATION PROGRAM</th>
<th>ACCEPTED MAJORS</th>
<th>OVERALL GPA</th>
<th>MAJOR GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dual Degree/ Dual Certification Inclusive Education Program (DD/DC)</td>
<td>All Approved Majors</td>
<td>3.25</td>
<td>3.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Admission only</td>
<td>P-3 Approved Major: Family &amp; Child Studies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>K-6 Approved Majors: Anthropology, Family &amp; Child Studies, Philosophy, Psychology, Religion, Sociology, Spanish, Women’s &amp; Gender Studies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Subject Area (P-12) Approved Majors: Biology, Chemistry, English, Fine Arts, French, Geoscience (Earth Science), Health &amp; Physical Education, Linguistics, Mathematics, Music, Spanish</td>
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The chart below shows the accepted majors and minimum overall and major GPA requirements for each undergraduate initial teacher single certification program offered at MSU.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CERTIFICATION PROGRAM</th>
<th>ACCEPTED MAJORS</th>
<th>OVERALL GPA</th>
<th>MAJOR GPA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Childhood (P-3)</td>
<td>Family and Child Studies – Families, Children, &amp; School Settings</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elementary (K-6)</td>
<td>Anthropology, English, General Humanities, History, Philosophy, Psychology, Religion, Sociology, Spanish, Women’s &amp; Gender Studies or Family &amp; Child Studies: Families, Children, &amp; School Settings</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subject Area/Secondary (P-12)</td>
<td>Biological Science</td>
<td>Biology</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Chemistry*</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dance</td>
<td>Dance Education</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Earth Science</td>
<td>Geoscience</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>English</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<td></td>
<td>English as a 2nd Language</td>
<td>Linguistics</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fine Arts</td>
<td>Fine Arts Education</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Health &amp; Physical Education</td>
<td>Physical Education</td>
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<td></td>
<td>French</td>
<td>French</td>
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<td>Italian</td>
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<td>Latin</td>
<td>Latin</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
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<td>3.0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Music Education</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Physics**</td>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Science***</td>
<td>Chemistry or Physics</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>Anthropology, Economics, Geography, History, Political Science, Psychology, or Sociology</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Holders of Chemistry certification can teach chemistry, environmental science, and general science.
** Holders of Physics certification can teach physics, environmental science, and general science.
***Holders of Physical Science certification can teach physics, chemistry, physical, environmental, general, earth, and space science.
2. Successfully Completing the Prerequisite Requirements

**SUBJECT AREA/SECONDARY (P-12) SINGLE CERTIFICATION**

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

- **EDFD 200** Psychological Foundations of Education (satisfies Gen Ed K3. Social Science)
- **EDFD 220** Philosophical Orientation to Education (satisfies Gen Ed F2. Philosophy/Religion)
- **EDFD 221** Historical Foundations of American Education (satisfies Gen Ed K1. American/European History)
- **CURR 210** Public Purposes of Education: Democracy and Schooling (satisfies L. Gen Ed elective; Sophomore status or higher)
- **9 CREDITS OF MAJOR COURSEWORK** (see major GPA requirements)
- **PRAXIS I** (PPST Basic Skills Test) or equivalent SAT/ACT Score

*Math majors* must have completed 11 credits including Calculus I and II and a course that requires Calculus II as a prerequisite. *Students applying for social studies* must have completed 15 credits of history coursework.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD (P-3) or ELEMENTARY (K-6) SINGLE CERTIFICATION**

If you plan to apply for the Early Childhood (P-3) or Elementary (K-6) Program, first you must successfully complete (C- or better) the following pre-requisite courses:

- **CMST 101** Fundamentals of Speech (satisfies Gen Ed C2. Communication)
- **PSYC 101** General Psychology (satisfies Gen Ed K3. Social Science)
- **FCST 214** Child Development I (prerequisite PSYC101)
- **ECEL 200** Perspectives in Early Childhood Elementary Education in a Democracy (satisfies L. Gen Ed elective; must have sophomore status or higher)
- **9 CREDITS OF MAJOR COURSEWORK** (see major GPA requirements)
- **PRAXIS I** (PPST Basic Skills Test) or equivalent SAT/ACT Score

*Family & Child Studies majors* must successfully complete 6 credits of major courses as well as FCST 214.

**P-3 and K-6 Applicants:** You must take at least two courses in each of the four content areas taught in P-3/K-6 school settings: Math, Science, Social Studies, and English and receive a grade of B- or higher in each. Only students who have met this requirement may be fully admitted to the Program; those who are still working on the requirement may be provisionally admitted.

**DUAL DEGREE/DUAL CERTIFICATION (DD/DC) P-3 or K-6 Certification**

If you plan to apply for the DD/DC Early Childhood (P-3) or DD/DC Elementary (K-6) Program, first you must successfully complete (C- or better) the following pre-requisite courses:

- **CMST 101** Fundamentals of Speech (satisfies Gen Ed C2. Communication)
- **PSYC 101** General Psychology (satisfies Gen Ed K3. Social Science)
- **FCST 214** Child Development I (prerequisite PSYC101)
- **ECEL 200** Perspectives in Early Childhood Elementary Education in a Democracy (satisfies L. Gen Ed elective; must have sophomore status or higher)
- **EDFD 220** Philosophical Orientation to Education (satisfies Gen Ed F2 Philosophy/Religion)
- **9 CREDITS OF MAJOR COURSEWORK**
- **3.25 Overall and Major GPA**
- **PRAXIS I** (PPST Basic Skills Test) or equivalent SAT/ACT Score

*Family & Child Studies majors* must successfully complete 6 credits of major courses as well as FCST 214.

**DD/DC P-3 and DD/DC K-6 Applicants:** You must take at least two courses in each of the four content areas taught in P-3/K-6 school settings: Math, Science, Social Studies, and English and receive a grade of B- or higher in each. Only students who have met this requirement may be fully admitted to the Program; those who are still working on the requirement may be provisionally admitted.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Applications for the DD/DC program are accepted in the spring semester only. The deadline to apply is the 4th Monday in January. The DD/DC application is the same as the single certification application except there is one additional essay required for the DD/DC program which is included in the online application packet.
DUAL DEGREE/DUAL CERTIFICATION (DD/DC) Subject Area/Secondary (P-12) Certification

If you plan to apply for a DD/DC subject area program (anything except Early Childhood and Elementary), first you must successfully complete (C- or better) the following pre-requisite courses:

- EDFD 200 Psychological Foundations of Education (satisfies Gen Ed K3. Social Science)
- EDFD 220 Philosophical Orientation to Education (satisfies Gen Ed F2. Philosophy/Religion)
- EDFD 221 Historical Foundations of American Education (satisfies Gen Ed K1 American/European History)
- CURR 210 Public Purposes of Education: Democracy and Schooling (satisfies L. Gen Ed elective; Sophomore status or higher)
- 9 CREDITS IN MAJOR COURSEWORK*
- 3.25 Overall and Major GPA
- PRAXIS I (PPST Basic Skills Test) or equivalent SAT/ACT Score

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

PLEASE NOTE: Applications for the DD/DC program are accepted in the spring semester only. The deadline to apply is the 4th Monday in January. The DD/DC application is the same as the single certification application except there is one additional essay required for the DD/DC program which is included in the online application packet.

TRANSFER EXCEPTION

Students seeking subject certification who transfer to MSU with 60 or more credits may apply to the Program immediately if they have completed 9 credits of major courses at their previous college or MSU and if they have completed or are enrolled in CURR 210 Public Purposes of Education: Democracy and Schooling. Math majors must have completed the 11 credits listed above. Please note: Students with an AA or AS degree from a NJ two-year institution are waived from having to take EDFD 220 and EDFD 221. Please see an advisor for more information.

Students seeking Early Childhood (P-3) or Elementary (K-6) certification who transfer to MSU with 60 or more credits may apply to the Program immediately if they have completed 9 credits of major courses at 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 and/or Child Development I.

3. Applying for Admission

The admissions process is separate from admission to the University or to a major. Undergraduate students must apply for admission to the Teacher Education Program by first creating a profile in the Teacher Education database and then submitting a paper application:

1. Create your online profile in the Teacher Education database: https://taurus.montclair.edu/
2. Complete and print your paper application: taurus.montclair.edu/application.doc

We recommend that you begin the paper application at least 4 weeks in advance as you will need to submit the following items: transcripts from all universities attended, essay(s), letter(s) of recommendation, resume & cover letter, and passing PRAXIS I or SAT/ACT scores.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Completed paper applications must be submitted to University Hall, Suite 1160 before 4:30pm:

- The second Monday in September (single certification programs only)
- The fourth Monday in January (single certification programs and DD/DC programs)
Admission Process:
The following five required steps are part of the admission process for the Undergraduate Teacher Education program:

1. Submission of Undergraduate Teacher Education Application by deadline

The steps below are arranged once the application is received by the Center of Pedagogy:
2. Impromptu Writing Sample hosted by the academic department
3. Information Session
4. In-person interview
5. New Admit Orientation

If you are accepted provisionally or fully into the Teacher Education Program, you are permitted to enroll in the first semester of the Professional Sequence. A review of your progress in major, general education, elective and Professional Sequence courses is conducted each semester to ensure you are on track to do your Professional Year field experiences (Clinical I and Clinical II for P-3 and K-6 candidates, Fieldwork and Student Teaching for subject area candidates). See the Teacher Education Program Handbook for specific requirements for these field experiences; take particular note that students must pass all required Praxis II exam(s) in order to student teach. Undergraduates are advised to take the Praxis II when they have completed 90 semester hours. Students in single certification programs must maintain a minimum overall G.P.A. of 3.00 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; a high level of initiative and follow-through are expected of students. 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)
  
  **Subject Area Advisor:** Ms. Ruth Berenson zerwitzr@mail.montclair.edu
  
  **P-3/K-6 Advisor:** Ms. Adrian Reagan reagana@mail.montclair.edu
  
  **Dual Degree/Dual Certification (DD/DC) Advisor:** Ms. Carla Parry Engstrom engstromc@mail.montclair.edu

• Our Web site: http://cehs.montclair.edu/academic/cop/teacher/

• The Teacher Education Program Handbook (available at our Web site and Blackboard community)

• 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).

• **Students interested in obtaining middle school certification in English, Science, Math, World Languages, or Social Studies:** No undergraduate middle school certification programs are offered at MSU, though there are graduate certification programs available in English, Science and Math middle school certification which you may consider doing after graduation. Middle school certification requires having 15 credits and a passing middle school Praxis score in the subject area. Students who seek advisement and plan carefully may be able to complete the necessary 15 credits in one or more middle school subject areas while completing their undergraduate degree. This would enable you to apply on your own to the State for the certification after graduation. Due to current job market conditions, we strongly advise students to consider additional endorsements in middle school content areas, TESL, and/or Teacher of Students with Disabilities. P-12 candidates, remember that your certification will enable you to teach middle school in your subject field (e.g., biology certification candidates can teach 7th grade general science) but you may benefit from adding on middle school certification in another subject area.

Center of Pedagogy
Teacher Education Admissions & Retention
University Hall, Suite 1160
973-655-7976