

Experience with Children

Good teachers have lots of experiences with children, parents, and educational activities. Students wishing to become teachers should seek opportunities for experiences in education-related environments. The amount and quality of a student's experience is often a factor in being admitted to a teacher education program.

Some programs have specific requirements about experiences with children and education required for admission to the teacher education program, some requiring up to 100 hours of experience with school-aged children.

While some education classes will provide part of this experience, students are encouraged to explore other avenues for gaining additional experience.

❖ *The Office of Student Activities, Alumni, and Community Affairs –*

This office houses the Student Advisory Council, supports the college's student organizations, and connects students with the Kentucky Education Association. Room 133 Dickey Hall, (257-1778)

❖ *Office of Experiential Education –*

Provides opportunities for interactive, real-life learning experiences through Shadowing, Internships, and Service-learning. Stuckert Building, 408 Rose St. (257-3632)

❖ *University Career Center –*

Summer camp and internship opportunities are offered through this office. Stuckert Building, 408 Rose St. (257-2746) www.uky.edu/CareerCenter/

Legal Background Checks

All students seeking admission to, retention in, or completion of a UK teacher education program, must complete a state mandated character and fitness review. The review requires students to declare any record of misconduct or violations of codes of ethics resulting in disciplinary action.

Students with records of misconduct beyond simple traffic violations must provide complete documentation of this misconduct utilizing written procedures available in the office of Academic Services and Teacher Certification. Records of misconduct will be available for use by program faculties in making decisions about admission, retention and completion of the program.

Students must also complete any state-mandated background checks, which may include a national check of FBI records. By Kentucky statute, persons with records of serious legal misconduct are ineligible for student teaching, state teaching licensure, or employment in the public schools.

Students are responsible for completing all required background check procedures in a timely manner so that decisions about their movement through the program may be made.

IMPORTANT: Occasionally, students have trouble earning the GPA they need, achieving the necessary score on a standardized test, or meeting one or more of the requirements listed on this brochure. All requirements must be met, but there may be resources to aid the student. Contact an advisor for possible options.

Beyond Classes:

What Else is Required for a Teaching Certificate?

Standardized Testing, Experience with Children, Continuous Assessment, and Legal Background Checks

UK

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

College of Education

Academic Services and Teacher Certification

166 Taylor Education Building
Lexington, KY 40506-0001
(859) 257-7971

2007-2008

www.uky.edu/Education/

Standardized Testing Requirements

Admission to a Teacher Education Program requires not only a minimum GPA of 2.5 in all areas of a student's program (2.75 for admission to the Graduate School), but also proof of having achieved an acceptable score on a basic skills exam such as the ACT, SAT, or Praxis I (or for graduate students the GRE).

Minimum required scores:

1. ACT... Composite score of 21
2. SAT... For tests taken before March 2005 a composite score of 990 is required. For tests taken after March 2005 a composite score of 1500 is required. In addition the applicant must have earned an "A" or "B" in a college composition course.
3. Praxis I... Reading 173, Mathematics 173, Writing 172
4. GRE... Applicants whose GRE scores reflect the new Analytic Writing test must have at least a combined score of 800 on the Verbal and Quantitative portions of the test, and a "4" on the Analytic Writing section. Applicants using the previous GRE score form must have a minimum composite score of 1200 combining scores from the Verbal, Quantitative, and Analytic portions of the test, as well as an "A" or "B" in a college composition course.

Testing Rules:

1. No standardized test scores older than eight years can be used to meet this requirement.
2. GRE scores may be used only by students who hold a bachelor's degree.
3. Students seeking entrance to a graduate degree initial certification program must meet both the graduate school rules regarding the GRE, and College of Education rules for certificate program standardized testing.

Subject Area Tests:

Successful completion of the required PRAXIS examinations is a precondition for the granting of a Kentucky Teaching License (Certificate). To be recommended for a Kentucky teaching certificate (license), candidates must successfully complete the appropriate PRAXIS Series Subject Assessments/Specialty Area Test(s) or the appropriate subject examination administered by the KY EPSB.

Submission of scores on required PRAXIS examinations for Kentucky licensure is a requirement for completion of a UK teacher education program. Candidates must have successfully completed this requirement prior to being recommended for any state teaching certificate (license).

Programs School Leadership require state-administered examinations. Please check with program faculty or the Academic Services and Teacher Certification office for clarification about the tests needed in each area.

Admissions Portfolios

All teacher education programs will require students to present an admissions portfolio at the time of application. In general, this portfolio will include the following items:

1. sample of writing,
2. written autobiography or resume, and
3. documentation of experiences with children of the age covered by the program.

Portfolio requirements do vary by program, so students should inquire with a program advisor for specifics.

Continuous Assessment In Teacher Education Programs

- a) A student's progress through all teacher preparation programs is continuously monitored, assessed, and reviewed. In addition to typical evaluation processes that occur as part of their course work and field placements, students will be assessed a minimum of three times during their program by representatives of their respective program faculty.
- b) The three assessments will occur upon entry into the Teacher Education Program, at a midpoint in the program (no later than the semester prior to student teaching), and as students exit the program following student teaching. Assessments will include, but are not limited to: (a) appropriate scores on approved standardized tests, (b) review of grades via transcript, (c) functional skills and dispositions assessed during interviews with program faculty, when taking campus based courses, and during field experiences, (d) portfolio documents, and (e) continued adherence to the KY Professional Code of Ethics. Note: Standards required at program admission continue to be required at retention and at program completion.
- c) Following admission to a teacher education program, if problems have been identified at any of the assessment points, program faculty will determine a plan for addressing the problems and implement the plan including feedback and direction to the student. In addition, if specific strengths are recognized during these assessments, the student will be commended.