

EDUCATION, BS: ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE EDUCATION

The Elementary and Middle Education (K-9) Program prepares individuals to meet the needs of diverse populations in a regular education setting from kindergarten through ninth grade. Clinical and student teaching experiences occur mainly in urban settings and take place in close partnership with local school districts.

Candidates successfully completing the Elementary and Middle Education (K-9) program will receive a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Education and endorsement to be licensed to teach in the State of Wisconsin from four-year-kindergarten through ninth grade. Individuals are licensed to teach any subject, except world language, in a self-contained classroom, and may teach language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies in a departmentalized setting.

Requirements

General Education Requirements (GERs)

UW-Milwaukee has General Education Requirements (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/policies/undergraduate-policies/#generaleducationtext>) that must be met in order to earn a bachelor's degree. Some of the requirements of your program may fulfill the campus GERs. Please review the requirements and consult with your academic advisor.

Below is a list of GER courses that are *highly recommended* for students interested in the Elementary and Middle Education program.

Code	Title	Credits
The Arts		
ART ED 130	Multicultural Art and Visual Learning in Elementary Education (GER-A, GER-CD)	3
THEATRE 260	Storytelling: (GER-A)	3
The Humanities		
CURRINS 233	Introduction to Children's and Young Adult Literature (GER-HU)	3
CURRINS 234	Teachers as Writers (GER-HU, OWC-B)	3
The Natural Sciences		
CHEM 185	Chemistry for Teachers (GER-NS+)	3
ASTRON 185	Astronomy for Pre-Education Majors (GER-NS+)	3
The Social Sciences		
ANTHRO 213	American Indian Peoples of Wisconsin (GER-CD, GER-SS)	3
Cultural Diversity		

See GER-CD designated courses above.

Students must meet certain criteria and apply to their specific licensure program in addition to admission to UWM. Please see information about minimum credits, GPA, and other requirements at Advance to Professional Sequence. (p. 2)

Program Core

Program core is comprised of foundational courses and should be completed prior to beginning the professional education semesters.

Code	Title	Credits
CURRINS 300	Introduction to Teaching: Colloquium and Fieldwork	3
ED PSY 330	Introduction to Learning and Development	3
ED POL 375	Cultural Foundations of Education	3
MATH 175	Mathematical Explorations for Elementary Teachers I (GER-QLA)	3
MATH 176	Mathematical Explorations for Elementary Teachers II (GER-QLB)	3

Total Credits 15

Concentration Area Requirements

First-degree students must choose a concentration area from the list (Mathematics, English Language Arts, Science, Social Studies).

Code	Title	Credits
Approved Content Area Coursework		15
Satisfactory completion of a minimum of 15 credits of approved coursework described under one of the concentration areas below (English Language Arts, Mathematics, Natural Sciences, or Social Studies). Some requirements may be fulfilled by GERs. Consult with your academic advisor to select appropriate coursework.		
English Language Arts		
Composition		6
Literature		3
Electives		6
Mathematics		
MATH 175	Mathematical Explorations for Elementary Teachers I	3
MATH 176	Mathematical Explorations for Elementary Teachers II	3
MATH 275	Problem Solving/Critical Thinking for Elementary Education Majors	3
Electives		6
Natural Sciences		
Earth Science		3
Biological Science		3
Physical Science		3
Electives		6
Social Studies		
History		3
Political Science		3
Geography		3
Electives		6

Professional Sequence

A grade of C or better is required in professional sequence coursework to advance in the program. No courses may be taken for credit/no credit.

Code	Title	Credits
<i>Semester 1</i>		
CURRINS 306	Initial Clinical Experience in Elementary and Middle Education	2
CURRINS 330	Teaching of Mathematics 1	3
CURRINS 536	Literacy 1: Assessing and Teaching Early Literacy	3
CURRINS 541	Principles and Methods of Teaching ESL	3
CURRINS 556	Professional Linking Seminar 1	3
EXCEDUC 605	Child, Learner, Disabilities	3
<i>Semester 2</i>		
CURRINS 321	Introduction to the Teaching of Social Studies	2
CURRINS 307	Clinical Experience in Elementary and Middle Education	3
CURRINS 327	Teaching of Science in the Elementary School	3
CURRINS 331	Teaching of Mathematics 2	3
CURRINS 537	Literacy 2: Assessing and Teaching Literacy through Early Adolescence	3
CURRINS 557	Professional Linking Seminar 2	3
CURRINS 377	Wisconsin Foundations of Reading (Course is not required, but highly recommended.)	
<i>Semester 3</i>		
CURRINS 323	Teaching of Social Studies:	2
CURRINS 332	Teaching of Mathematics 3	3
CURRINS 406	Advanced Clinical Experience in Elementary and Middle Education	4
CURRINS 527	Science in the Elementary School	3
CURRINS 538	Literacy 3: Introduction to New Literacies	3
CURRINS 558	Professional Linking Seminar 3	3
<i>Semester 4 *</i>		
CURRINS 407	Student Teaching in Elementary and Middle Education	9
CURRINS 471	Student Teaching Seminar: The Effective Urban Educator	3
Total Credits		64

* Students must complete an application in order to be assigned a student teaching placement. To be approved for placement, additional criteria must be met. See Benchmarks (p. 3) for details.

Requirements for Graduation

For information on credit, GPA, and other requirements for graduation, see UWM Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/policies/undergraduate-policies/>).

Second Degree Pathway

Second degree candidates begin the program with the Professional Sequence, and a content area concentration is not required.

Post-Baccalaureate Pathway

Post-baccalaureate candidates begin the program with the Professional Sequence, and a content area concentration is not required.

Additional Requirements for Certification

- Passing score on the Wisconsin Foundations of Reading Test (WIFoRT) is also required for endorsement to be licensed to teach in the State of Wisconsin. Students who currently hold a Wisconsin Tier II or higher teaching license in any subject do not complete this requirement.
- Successfully complete the content knowledge requirement for your program through one of the following:
 - Minimum 3.0 GPA in content coursework.
 - Passing score on the Praxis Subject Assessment Exam: Middle School: Content Knowledge.
- Earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 in all UWM and transfer courses.
- Demonstrate successful completion of the Pedagogical Knowledge Assessment (PKA).
- Meet all applicable Wisconsin statutory and testing requirements.
- Complete approved coursework in the history, culture, and tribal sovereignty of American Indian tribes and bands located in Wisconsin, met through one of the following:

Code	Title	Credits
ANTHRO 213	American Indian Peoples of Wisconsin (GER-CD, GER-SS)	3
ENGLISH 276	Introduction to American Indian Literature: (topic: History, Literature & Sovereignty of Wisconsin Tribes (GER-CD, GER-HU)	3
ACT 31: History, Culture and Sovereignty Rights of Wisconsin Indians Workshop		
Or an approved equivalent		

Advance to Major

Advance to Professional Sequence

- Mandatory meeting with advisor in the semester prior to applying to the program.
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 in all UWM and transfer courses.
- Completion of CURRINS 300 with a grade of B or better.
- Completion of MATH 175 and Oral and Written Communication Part A/OWC-A (or score of 4 or higher on English placement test) requirements with a C or better.
- Successful application.
- Final candidate selection completed by program committee, and is contingent upon available space in the program.
- Advisor approval to proceed into the professional education semesters.

Advance to Professional Sequence-Second Degree and Post-Baccalaureate

For individuals with a bachelor's degree.

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.
- Mandatory meeting with advisor prior to applying to the program.
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 in all UWM and transfer courses.
- Successful application.
- Final candidate selection completed by program committee, and is contingent upon available space in the program.

Criminal Background Check

Criminal Background Check (CBC). For all students, a background check shall be completed no more than 6 months prior to the date of admission (advance to professional sequence) into the educator preparation program. The background check shall include a review of criminal conduct at the state and federal levels.

Benchmarks

Student Teaching

Students must complete an application to request/be assigned a student teaching placement. Deadlines for submission are posted by the Office of Clinical Experiences. (<http://uwm.edu/education/academics/clinical-experiences/>)

To be approved, students must **ALSO** meet the following criteria:

- Be advanced to the professional sequence.
- Satisfactory completion of field evaluation in CURRINS 406.
- A grade of C or better in required professional semesters 1, 2, and 3 coursework.
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 in all UWM and transfer courses.
- Removal of all F or I (incomplete) grades in required program courses.
- Passing score or evidence of attempt on the Wisconsin Foundations of Reading Test.
- Demonstration of content knowledge proficiency with a GPA of 3.0 or higher in required coursework **OR** Passing score on the Praxis Subject Assessment exam: Middle School: Content Knowledge.
- Updated TB test **results** submitted to the Office of Clinical Experiences (may take up to 6 weeks).
- Updated Criminal Background Check submitted to the Office of Clinical Experiences.

Content Knowledge for Subject Area

Students must earn a minimum GPA of 3.0 in content area courses or earn a passing score on the appropriate Praxis II test.

Code	Title	Credits
Mathematics		
MATH 175	Mathematical Explorations for Elementary Teachers I	3
MATH 176	Mathematical Explorations for Elementary Teachers II	3
Or equivalent of these courses		
English		
GER-OWCB, usually CURRINS 234		3
CURRINS 536	Literacy 1: Assessing and Teaching Early Literacy	3

Or equivalent of these courses

Science

GER-NS	3
GER-NS+	3-4

Or equivalent of these courses

Social Studies

Social Studies elective (History, Political Science, Geography, Economics)	3
--	---

Course on the history, culture, and tribal sovereignty of American Indian tribes and bands located in Wisconsin, or other Social Studies elective course	3
--	---

Or equivalent of these courses

Student Advising and Support Services

At the College of Community Engagement and Professions (CCEP), your success is our priority. Our dedicated student advising and support services team is here to help you navigate your academic journey, from your first semester through graduation.

Whether you're exploring majors, planning your course schedule, or preparing for your career, our advisors offer personalized guidance tailored to your goals. You'll also find a range of support services designed to help you thrive—academically, personally, and professionally. We're committed to providing a welcoming, inclusive environment where every student feels seen, supported, and empowered to succeed.

For more information, visit the CCEP Student Advising & Support Services website (<https://uwm.edu/community-engagement-professions/about/student-advising-support-services/>).

Email: ccep-advising@uwm.edu | **Phone:** 414-229-4707

Graduate Advising

If you are a School of Education graduate student, you may schedule an appointment with your faculty advisor by contacting your faculty advisor directly. Faculty contact information can be found in the Directory (<https://uwm.edu/education/directory/>). Your faculty advisor will be listed in your PAWS account.

Honors in the Department of Teaching and Learning

Departmental Honors are granted to students who have achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.500 or above, based on a minimum of 40 graded UWM credits earned prior to the final semester.

College of Community Engagement and Professions Dean's Honor List

GPA of 3.750 or above, earned on a full-time student's GPA on 12 or more graded credits in a given semester.

Honors College Degree and Honors College Degree with Distinction

Granted to graduating seniors who complete Honors College requirements, as listed in the Honors College (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/honors-college/>) section of this site.

Commencement Honors

Students with a cumulative GPA of 3.500 or above, based on a minimum of 40 graded UWM credits earned prior to the final semester, will receive all-university commencement honors and be awarded the traditional gold cord at the December or May Honors Convocation. Please note that for honors calculation, the GPA is **not** rounded and is truncated at the third decimal (e.g., 3.499).

Final Honors

Earned on a minimum of 60 graded UWM credits: Cum Laude - 3.500 or above; Magna Cum Laude - 3.650 or above; Summa Cum Laude - 3.800 or above.