DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

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Mission Statement
The mission of the Teacher Education Unit is to inspire, educate and prepare facilitators of active learning for diverse and inclusive communities of learners in environments that are technologically advanced.

Programs of the Department
The Department of Elementary Education offers the following programs of study: the major in Elementary Education, the major in Elementary Education with eligibility for Early Childhood certification, the Master of Arts in Teaching, and the Master of Education in Elementary Education. For more information about the master’s programs, consult the Graduate Catalog.

The Elementary Education faculty believes that well-prepared elementary school teachers are facilitators of active learning. As reflective practitioners, teachers engage students in the learning process by utilizing research findings and experience-based strategies and practices to make sound, educational decisions. These decisions should be based upon an articulated education philosophy, a thorough knowledge of students’ strengths and needs, and an analysis of various learning environments. The Elementary Education program fulfills the goal of preparing such teachers through a program based on a broad liberal arts background and professional preparation, including a planned sequence of courses and field experiences in the Baltimore metropolitan area.

The major in Elementary Education leads to certification to teach grades 1 through 6. The program provides classroom and laboratory experiences that prepare students for beginning teaching in elementary schools. Candidates who desire a middle school placement must pass the Middle School Praxis subject matter test in the content discipline.

The goals and objectives of the Department of Elementary Education reflect the mission and vision of the College of Education. Students in the program are provided the knowledge, skills and dispositions identified by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), the Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (INTASC) principles, and the Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI) standards for professionals in elementary education. Students are required to demonstrate mastery of the performance-based outcomes in order to exit the Elementary Education Program.

Declaring The Elementary Education Major

Students interested in becoming Elementary Education majors must first gain admission to Towson University. Admission to the university does not guarantee admission to the Elementary Education program. Students declare majors online at http://www.towson.edu/registrar/Registration/. On the left hand side of the screen select Changing your Major/Minor. Select Change of Major/Minor form and then enter your Towson University username and password. The declaration of major should appear. Complete all questions asked. You will receive an email with the name, location, and email address of your Education Adviser.

All students enrolled in a Teacher Education program are required to undergo a criminal background check before participating in any internship placement.

Applying For The Professional Internships

The Elementary Education program is divided into a Pre-Professional Program (62 units) and courses in a sequence of Professional Internships (61–62 units) for a total of 123–124 units. Acceptance into the Professional Internships is a competitive process and enrollment is limited by course availability and faculty resources. To submit an Application for the Professional Internships to the Department of Elementary Education, Elementary Education majors must meet the criteria listed below.

Native Towson University students

• Complete the Pre-Professional Program with a minimum 2.75 GPA. No grade below a grade-equivalent of 2.00 (C) is allowed in prerequisite or Core Curriculum courses.
• All Pre-Professional courses must be taken for a grade. No pass/fail is allowed.
• Pass Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators (Core) or meet the following:

SAT TAKEN AFTER 2005, MATH & CRITICAL READING
SAT TAKEN BETWEEN 4/95 & 2005, 1100
MATH & VERBAL
SAT TAKEN PRIOR TO 4/95, MATH & VERBAL

ACT Composite Score 24

• Attend a mandatory orientation meeting (dates, times, locations posted outside the Elementary Education Office and department website).

Transfer students with a Maryland-approved Associate of Arts in Teaching (A.A.T.) degree

• Complete a minimum of 64 units of the Pre-Professional Program with a minimum 2.75 GPA. No grade below a grade equivalent of 2.00 (C) is allowed in transferred prerequisite courses (additional prerequisite courses may be required once enrolled at Towson University).
• All Pre-Professional courses must be taken for a grade. No pass/fail is allowed.
• Pass Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators (Core) or meet the following:

SAT TAKEN AFTER 2005, MATH & CRITICAL READING
SAT TAKEN BETWEEN 4/95 & 2005, 1100
MATH & VERBAL
SAT TAKEN PRIOR TO 4/95, MATH & VERBAL

ACT Composite Score 24
• Attend a mandatory orientation meeting on the Towson University campus (dates, times and location on campus are listed in the Application for the Professional Internships available through the community college teacher education coordinator and on the department website).

• Submit a copy of an official transcript listing the A.A.T. degree upon completion of the degree from the community college.

• Submit a copy of passing PRAXIS Core tests.

A.A.T. degree candidates must submit an Application for the Professional Internships in the term prior to their anticipated enrollment.

Transfer students with an Associate of Arts degree

• Complete the Pre-Professional Program with equivalent courses, and a minimum 2.75 GPA. No grade below a grade equivalent of 2.00 (C) is allowed in transferred prerequisite courses.

• All Pre-Professional courses must be taken for a grade. No pass/fail is allowed.

• Pass Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators (Core) or meet the following:

| SAT TAKEN AFTER 2005, MATH & CRITICAL READING | 1100 |
| SAT TAKEN BETWEEN 4/95 & 2005, MATH & VERBAL | 1100 |
| SAT TAKEN PRIOR TO 4/95, MATH & VERBAL | 1000 |
| ACT Composite Score | 24 |

Elementary Education majors must have a minimum 2.75 GPA to apply for the Professional Internships. However, applicants may be ranked according to cumulative GPA if the number of applicants exceeds course availability. Therefore, the GPA necessary for admission may exceed the minimum 2.75. Elementary Education majors must maintain a minimum 3.00 cumulative GPA to remain enrolled in the Professional Internships and must earn a 2.00 or C grade in all courses in the Professional Internships.

Students must submit their Application for the Professional Internships to the Department of Elementary Education. Transfer students who are pursuing an Associate of Arts in Teaching degree from a Maryland community college should obtain the Application for the Professional Internships from their community college teacher education coordinator and attend a mandatory orientation meeting on the Towson University campus.

Reflecting the Professional Education Mission and Vision statements, students are assigned by their department (in coordination with the Center for Professional Practice) to field and clinical placements that are diverse and inclusive. Placements are made that enable the Teacher Education Unit to meet state and national accreditation mandates. All professional year placements will be in identified Professional Development Schools, based on ongoing and systematic PDS partnership agreements with school systems. These mandates and the size and scope of the education program do not permit personal preference or geographic convenience in placements.

Students in Levels III and IV of the Elementary Education Program in fall term will begin the term when elementary school teachers are required to be in their classrooms (generally mid-August). This may be before the start of the term at Towson University. Students in Level IV of the Elementary Education Program in spring terms will begin the term on the Towson University calendar. Students in Level III and Level IV of the Elementary Education Program will follow the school district’s spring break for their internship classes, and will follow the Towson University calendar for their on-campus classes.

Majors in Elementary Education

• Major in Elementary Education (http://catalog.towson.edu/undergraduate/education/elementary-education/elementary-education)

• Major in Elementary Education with Dual Certification in Early Childhood Education (http://catalog.towson.edu/undergraduate/education/elementary-education/elementary-education-early-childhood)

• Major in Integrated Elementary Education - Special Education Dual Certification Program (http://catalog.towson.edu/undergraduate/education/elementary-education/integrated-elementary-education-special-education-dual-certification)