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/. 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 | 1100 |
| SAT TAKEN BETWEEN 4/95 & 2005, MATH & VERBAL | 1100 |
| SAT TAKEN PRIOR TO 4/95, MATH & VERBAL | 1000 |
| 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 | 1100 |
| SAT TAKEN BETWEEN 4/95 & 2005, MATH & VERBAL | 1100 |
| SAT TAKEN PRIOR TO 4/95, MATH & VERBAL | 1000 |
| 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)

**Courses**

**ELED 200 THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILD AS A LEARNER (3)** Provides overview of children’s development in the middle childhood years with specific focus on children’s social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development in the elementary primary and middle grades. Prerequisite: PSYC 101 with a grade of C or higher.

**ELED 311 CHILDREN AND THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT (3)** Curriculum methods and assessment strategies for the elementary school classroom.

**ELED 312 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOOL INTERNSHIP I (3)** Completion of an internship in an elementary school classroom for a minimum of 120 hours. Corequisite: ELED 311. Prerequisite: successful completion of Level I and Level II of the Elementary Education Professional Internship Sequence. Lab/Class fee will be assessed.

**ELED 320 WRITING FOR ELEMENTARY EDUCATORS (3)** Introduces the models and practices of written communication used by elementary teachers. Emphasis will be given to the genres taught in elementary school, the strategies and processes used to produce effective texts, and the features of quality texts. Students will use writing to analyze and evaluate claims, evidence, and questions about teaching writing to diverse children. Requires grade of C or better to fulfill Core or GenEd requirement. Prerequisite: ENGL 102 or ENGL 190. Core: Advanced Writing Seminar or GenEd I.D.

**ELED 322 FOUNDATIONS OF READING AND OTHER LANGUAGE ARTS (3)** Examination of theories, processes and acquisition of reading and language arts, including cognitive, linguistic, social and physiological factors involved in oral and written language development.

**ELED 323 PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES OF INSTRUCTION IN READING AND LANGUAGE ARTS (3)** Principles for developing reading and language arts programs in the elementary classroom. Examination of current approaches, methodologies, and strategies for instruction. Corequisite: ELED 363. Prerequisite: ELED 200.
ELED 324 INTEGRATING LITERACY IN K-12 CONTENT AREAS (3)
Overview of process and acquisition of literacy, informal strategies for assessing literacy, and the range of instructional strategies and materials for integrating literacy into K-12 content area classrooms. Restricted to Music Education, Art Education, Dance Education, or Physical Education majors. Prerequisite: special permit.

ELED 357 LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE LEARNERS IN THE CLASSROOM (3)
Critique and reflect on theory and teacher practice that relate to preparing teachers for teaching children who are learning English as a second language. Prerequisites: PSYC 201 and sophomore status.

ELED 363 LANGUAGE AND LITERACY INTERNSHIP (3)
Initial experiences in teaching and learning in specified settings. Focus on observing and analyzing teaching and learning within the context of the school and community. Prerequisite: PSYC 201. Lab/Class fee will be assessed.

ELED 365 TEACHING SOCIAL STUDIES IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (3)
Methods and materials for elementary school social studies instruction. Attention given to multicultural and global perspectives. Prerequisite: ELED 311.

ELED 399 DIFFERENTIATED INTERNSHIP- ELEMENTARY (1-8)
Student teaching experience in addition to those in ELED 468 or student teaching in special subject areas, according to needs and interest of the student. May be repeated for a maximum of 8 units. Graded S/U.

ELED 429 PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES OF ASSESSMENT IN READING AND LANGUAGE ARTS (3)
Examination of and practice using a range of assessments for reading and language arts development, focusing on the relationship of assessment to instructional planning for diverse learners. Prerequisite: ELED 323.

ELED 457 ENGLISH FOR THE NON ENGLISH SPEAKING CHLD (3)
Methods of teaching English to elementary school children whose native tongue is another language.

ELED 458 PRACTICUM: ENGLISH FOR THE NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING CHILD (1-4)
Supervised internship in teaching English to elementary school children whose native tongue is another language. May be repeated for a maximum of 4 units.

ELED 468 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOOL INTERNSHIP II (6-12)
Fourteen-to fifteen-week full-time field experience in public school classrooms under guidance of master teachers and university supervisor. Graded S/U.

ELED 469 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOOL INTERNSHIP SEMINAR (3)
Readings, action research and discussion on school environments, instructional delivery, diagnosis/evaluation, classroom management policies. Active inquiry within context of classrooms and agencies that influence schooling practices.

ELED 470 SPECIAL TOPICS IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (1-3)
In-depth study of a selected topic in Elementary Education. The specific requirements and prerequisites will vary with each topic and will be designated by the department each time a topic is scheduled. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 credits provided different topics are covered.

ELED 494 TRAVEL AND STUDY: ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (1-6)
Study abroad of education facilities, programs, or practices, or selected projects in Elementary Education topics. By special arrangement with program chairperson and sponsoring instructors. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 units.

ELED 495 INDEPENDANT STUDY IN EDUCATION: ELEMENTARY (1-4)
An opportunity for especially qualified students to undertake research problems or study projects relevant to their interest and training under the direction of a staff member. May be repeated for a maximum of 4 units.

ELED 496 DIRECTED READING: ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (1-4)
Independent reading in selected areas of Elementary Education in order to provide for the individual a comprehensive coverage or to meet special needs. By invitation of the Department to major students. May be repeated for a maximum of 4 units.