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 (https://www.towson.edu/coe/departments/elementary) 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 Education in Elementary Education and the Master of Education in Reading 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.

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) and the Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (INTASCO) principles. Students are required to demonstrate mastery of the performance-based outcomes in order to exit the Elementary Education Program.

Developmental Reading
Remediation in reading skills is provided for Towson students through the developmental studies courses in reading scheduled by the Elementary Education Department. See competency requirements for entering students under the Tutoring & Learning Center (http://catalog.towson.edu/undergraduate/student-support-services/tutoring-and-learning-center) section in Academic Resources. Informational sessions for the Praxis are also conducted.

Admission Requirements for Teacher Education
The Teacher Education Executive Board, representing all initial teacher education programs at Towson University, utilizes the following minimum requirements as conditions for admission into teacher education programs, maintaining candidate status and formal entry into the capstone internship. Programs may include additional requirements for admission into the program and/or the capstone internship.

The College of Education admits students either as freshmen or as undergraduate transfer students from accredited, post-secondary institutions. During the freshman and sophomore years, students are generally engaged in pre-professional courses or courses that fulfill Core Curriculum requirements, as well as all identified prerequisites (e.g., specific and sequential courses in Core Curriculum) for admission to COE screened majors and programs.

All College of Education undergraduate programs are screened majors. As an integral part of the teaching/learning experience, students work with advisers in a strategic planning process across all years at TU. Accordingly, to support student success, all COE students are required to confer prior to registration each term with their assigned advisers.

I. PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO ALL TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

1. Complete a notarized self-disclosure criminal background form to be filed in the major department, with a written application. For Secondary Education content programs, the criminal background forms will be filed in the Secondary and Middle School Education Department.

2. Submit a written application for formal admission to the program. Students seeking admission to teacher education programs must contact their department chairperson or program coordinator by 45 credit hours for program-specific procedures and requirements for admission to professional education programs.

3. Document a minimum GPA of at least 3.0 during the most recent two years of the candidate’s general education. A grade of PS (Pass) is not accepted for courses required in the major/minor per the undergraduate catalog. AP credits can be applied towards requirements in the major/minor, but not towards the GPA.

4. Provide documentation of meeting the MSDE Basic Skills Assessment Requirement (http://marylandpublicschools.org/about/Pages/DEE/Certification/testing_info/praxis1.aspx).

- 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)
- Minor in Linguistic Diversity (http://catalog.towson.edu/undergraduate/education/elementary-education/linguistic-diversity-minor)