

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION AND SPECIAL EDUCATION, BSE

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatetext>) section of the *Guide*.

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| General Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breadth–Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits • Breadth–Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits • Breadth–Social Studies: 3 credits • Communication Part A & Part B * • Ethnic Studies * • Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B * |
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* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION LIBERAL STUDIES REQUIREMENTS

All students are required to complete a minimum of 40 credits of Liberal Studies (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/#requirementsforundergraduatetext>) coursework. This requirement provides an opportunity to do some academic exploration beyond the scope of the major. Students take courses in areas of particular interest and also have an opportunity to sample the wide selection of courses offered across the university. Coursework is required in humanities, social studies, science, and cultural and historical studies. Some elective coursework is also needed to reach the required number of credits.

The School of Education's Liberal Studies Requirements automatically satisfy most of the University General Education Requirements outlined above, including ethnic

studies, humanities/literature, social studies, and science. Students pursuing most School of Education degree programs may also complete Communication Part B, Quantitative Reasoning Part A, and Quantitative Reasoning Part B through courses required by their degree program. If a student cannot complete a General Education Requirement within the curriculum of their chosen School of Education program, academic advisors can offer suggestions for courses that meet the requirement and augment the student's primary area of study.

A basic outline of the liberal studies is included below. Students must consult the detailed version of the requirements (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/#requirementsforundergraduatetext>) for information about course selection and approved course options.

Humanities, 9 credits

All students must complete a minimum of 9 credits to include:

- Literature
- Fine Arts
- Humanities Electives

Social Studies (Social Science)

All students must complete a minimum of 9 credits. Teacher certification programs and Kinesiology have unique requirements in this category.

Science

All students must complete a minimum of 9 credits to include:

- Biological Science
- Physical Science
- Laboratory Science
- Science Electives

Cultural and Historical Studies

All students must complete three requirements (9 credits) met by separate courses. Any of these courses can also be used to meet the Humanities or Social Studies (Social Sciences) requirements if it has the relevant breadth designation.

- Ethnic Studies
- U.S./European History
- Global Perspectives

Complete Liberal Studies Electives (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/#requirementsforundergraduatetext>) to total 40 Credits.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The Elementary Education and Special Education program has four primary components:

- *Liberal studies* courses expose students to a broad range of academic disciplines. The university-wide *General Education* requirements also encourage this breadth of study.
- *Professional education* coursework includes an examination of the schools' relationship to our society and the processes by which students grow and learn.
- *Core Requirements* offer an in-depth study of Elementary Education and Special Education, including a four-semester *professional sequence* of teaching methods coursework and field experience in schools. This sequence is designed so that students can complete the program in four years.

- *Elective* coursework is taken to reach the required minimum of 120 credits.

The Elementary Education and Special Education major requires 70 credits of professional coursework in addition to other degree requirements. RP & SE 300 Individuals with Disabilities must also be completed prior to beginning the professional sequence.

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES - PREREQUISITE FOR PROGRAM ADMISSION

This course must be completed by the end of the summer of the application year, before beginning the professional course sequence.

Code	Title	Credits
RP & SE 300	Individuals with Disabilities	3

PROFESSIONAL SEQUENCE

The professional coursework was designed to be completed in four semesters, starting in the fall after admission to the program. Each semester of the sequence must be followed sequentially and taken in consecutive semesters unless a modification is approved. Most classes must be taken during specified semesters, while other requirements may be completed prior to beginning the sequence.

Code	Title	Credits
Semester 1 (Fall)		
CURRIC 319	Pedagogical Content Knowledge for Teaching Elementary Mathematics 1	3
CURRIC/ RP & SE 406	Race, Intersectionality, and Equity in Education ¹	3
RP & SE 320	Introduction to Teaching in Special Education	3
RP & SE 465	Language and Reading Instruction for Students with Disabilities	3
CURRIC 550	Methods, Materials and Activities in Early Childhood Education	3
RP & SE 605	Development, Learning and Education Foundations in Special Education ¹	3
Semester 2 (Spring)		
CURRIC 320	Pedagogical Content Knowledge for Teaching Elementary Mathematics 2 ¹	3
RP & SE 464	Diagnosis, Assessment, and Instructional Planning in Special Education	3
RP & SE 466	Diversity in Special Education	3
RP & SE 472	Methods in Transition and Vocational Education	3
RP & SE 473	Classroom Management for Inclusive Classrooms	3
RP & SE 476	Special Education Practicum: Secondary (Grades 4-12)	3
Semester 3 (Fall)		
RP & SE/ CURRIC 365	Teaching Mathematics in Inclusive Settings	3
CURRIC 318	Teaching Reading and Writing	3

CURRIC 371	Teaching Social Studies	3
CURRIC 372	Teaching Science	3
RP & SE 515	Access to the General Curriculum for Students with Disabilities	3
CURRIC 373	Elementary Teaching Practicum III	3
Semester 4 (Spring)		
CURRIC 463	Seminar in Elementary Education	1
CURRIC 464	Student Teaching in the Elementary School	7
RP & SE 457	Elementary Student Teaching Seminar - Elementary/Special Education Dual Major	1
RP & SE 477	Special Education Student Teaching: Elementary (PK - Grade 9)	7
Total Credits		70

¹ May be taken before semester 1 of the professional sequence, including prior to program admission.

A minimum of 120 credits is still required to complete the degree.

CONTENT AREA MINOR (OPTIONAL REQUIREMENT)

Students may elect to complete a minor in one of the following content areas. Minors provide a depth of study in a particular area of interest and also inform classroom instruction. Upon completion, the minor will be posted on the UW-Madison transcript, but students will not receive an additional certification in the subject area. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction no longer offers content licenses in association with the K-9 educator license.

The completion of a minor is required to teach middle school licensing in some states and may benefit students particularly interested in teaching at this level. See the links below for the requirements of each minor.

Minor Options

- **Biology** (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/curriculum-instruction/biology-minor/>)
- **Chemistry** (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/curriculum-instruction/chemistry-minor/>)
- **Earth Science** (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/curriculum-instruction/earth-science-minor/>)
- **Economics** (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/curriculum-instruction/economics-minor/>)
- **English** (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/curriculum-instruction/english-minor/>)
- **English Language Arts** (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/curriculum-instruction/english-language-arts-minor/>)
- **Geography** (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/curriculum-instruction/geography-minor/>)
- **History** (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/curriculum-instruction/history-minor/>)
- **Mathematics** (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/curriculum-instruction/mathematics-minor/>)
- **Mathematics and Science Dual** (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/curriculum-instruction/mathematics-science-dual-minor/>)

- **Mathematics Specialized** (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/curriculum-instruction/mathematics-specialized-minor/>)
- **Physics** (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/curriculum-instruction/physics-minor/>)
- **Political Science** (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/curriculum-instruction/political-science-minor/>)
- **Psychology** (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/curriculum-instruction/psychology-minor/>)
- **Science Specialized** (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/curriculum-instruction/science-specialized-minor/>)
- **Social Studies** (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/curriculum-instruction/social-studies-minor/>)
- **Sociology** (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/curriculum-instruction/sociology-minor/>)

ELECTIVE COURSEWORK

Complete additional courses as necessary to reach the minimum of 120 credits required for the degree.

GPA AND OTHER GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students must complete all requirements and also obtain the endorsement of the program faculty to receive certification through UW–Madison. The State of Wisconsin requires that anyone wishing to teach in a public K–12 setting hold a valid teaching license issued through the Department of Public Instruction. In addition to completing a certification program, students must submit a separate application for this license. Requirements below are based on UW–Madison coursework.

- 2.75 cumulative grade point average. This may be modified by the Last 60 Credits Rule (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/#policiesandregulationtext>).
- 2.75 cumulative grade point average across all professional education courses (excluding practicum and student teaching).
- 2.75 cumulative grade point average in the major.
- 2.75 cumulative grade point average in the minor, if required.
- Minimum 120 credits (degree candidates only).
- Major residency: Degree candidates must complete at least 15 credits of upper-level major coursework (numbered 300–699) in residence on the UW–Madison campus.
- Senior residency: Degree candidates must complete their last 30 credits in residence on the UW–Madison campus. Student teaching and practicum are considered part of the 30 credits.

DEGREE AUDIT REPORTING SYSTEM (DARS)

UW–Madison uses “DARS” to document a student’s progress toward the completion of their degree, including any additional majors and certificates. A DARS (Degree Audit Reporting System) report shows all the requirements for completing a degree and, against courses that are planned or completed, shows the requirements that have been met, and those that are unmet. A report can offer suggestions about courses that may be taken to meet specific requirements and can assist in the academic planning and enrollment process. Students can access a DARS report in the Course Search & Enroll app or Student Center via My UW.

DARS also has a “what-if” function. This feature makes it possible to request a DARS report as if pursuing another program, major, or certificate. It is an excellent tool if considering a new or additional area of study. School of Education students in a pre-professional classification such as Pre-Elementary (PRE) or Pre-Kinesiology should request a “what if” DARS report of their professional program of interest.

More information on how to request a DARS report is available on the Office of the Registrar’s website (<https://registrar.wisc.edu/dars/>).

DARS is not intended to replace student contact with academic advisors. It creates more time in an advising appointment to discuss course options, research opportunities, graduate school, or issues of personal interest or concern to students.

DARS is used as the document of record for degree program, major, and certificate completion in the School of Education.

ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLYING FOR A LICENSE

In addition to completing UW–Madison’s program requirements, students must also complete Wisconsin statutory requirements and certification requirements established by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. Many of these requirements are embedded within the program’s requirements and require no additional attention. The endorsement of the program coordinator/faculty is also required to receive certification through UW–Madison.

The State of Wisconsin requires that anyone wishing to teach in a public K–12 setting hold a valid teaching license issued through the Department of Public Instruction. In addition to completing a certification program, students must submit a separate application for this license.

Detailed information about certification requirements and applying for a license is available under Certification/Licensure. (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/curriculum-instruction/elementary-bse/#certificationlicensuretext>)

UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Total Degree To receive a bachelor’s degree from UW–Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.

Residency Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW–Madison. “In residence” means on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. “In residence” credit also includes UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.

Quality of Work Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.