



## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (BIRTH THROUGH GRADE 3)

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The Westminster College Teacher Education Program is administered by the Department of Education. The program is designed to promote the life-long learning dispositions the teaching profession demands, as well to provide the depth and breadth of academic and practical knowledge needed for successful beginning teaching. The conceptual framework emphasizes the idea of "the teacher as a reflective practitioner." The faculty draws on research and extensive experience to make course work meaningful and strives to demonstrate attitudes and practice, which serve as examples for students' future classrooms. Students receive personal attention within a learning community that encourages them to develop critical thinking, creative sensibility, and communication arts to share ideas and to understand others as they teach and learn in a global, technological society.

Those who wish to teach will earn a Bachelor of Arts with majors offered in Elementary (grades 1-6), Early Childhood (birth-Grade 3), Middle School (grades 5-9) and Secondary Education (grades 9-12). Secondary content emphasis areas are: Business, Mathematics, Social Studies, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, General Science, English, Spanish (K-12), French (K-12), Physical Education. Middle school majors are encouraged to complete two areas of content concentration selected from English, Science, Social Studies, and Mathematics. Each concentration area consists of at least 24 hours chosen from Mathematics, Social Studies, Science or English. There is an add-on certification option for Elementary majors who wish to add Early Childhood certification.

The Teacher Education Program is designed so that majors complete a course of study approved by the State of Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), which will lead to recommendation for certification in the chosen major and concentration areas. Teacher education preparation experiences include: research, observation, demonstration, and participation in local school settings. Students who prepare for a teaching career must meet professional education requirements specified by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, as well as the program requirements of Westminster College. Teacher education majors must demonstrate competencies in reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social science.

***Students must be accepted into the Teacher Education program before taking upper level professional education courses. Admission criteria are:***

1. Register and take the Missouri Educator Profile (MEP); passing score not required; required to take in EDU 101.
2. Passing scores in all subsets of the Missouri General Education Assessment (MOGEA); required to take in EDU 290; send results to Jim Concannon.
3. Resume; to be done in EDU 290; send to Jim Concannon.
4. Written Teaching Philosophy Document; to be done in EDU 290; send to Jim Concannon.
5. Maintain an annual student membership with the Missouri State Teacher Association (MSTA); Practicum 1 (EDU 291); send results to Jim Concannon.
6. Register with the Family Care Safety Registry at: [www.health.mo.gov/safety/fcsr](http://www.health.mo.gov/safety/fcsr) during Practicum 1 (EDU 291); send results to Jim Concannon.
7. Satisfactory Dispositions Checklist from Cooperating Teacher and Professor of Practicum I (EDU 291).
8. Letter of Recommendation from an Education Faculty Member.
9. Letter of Recommendation From an Outside Faculty Member.
10. 4-year Plan signed by advisor and sent to Jim Concannon.
11. Grade Point Average: 2.75 Overall; 3.00 Education Coursework; 3.0 Content Coursework at the end of sophomore year; for transfer students, GPA will be calculated after one semester of Westminster coursework.
12. A formal letter requesting consideration for admittance into the Teacher Education Program.

After entry into the program and before graduation, it is required that students pass a nationally criterion referenced entrance exam to the profession, established by DESE. Completing the national test is part of the certification application process. Students must also obtain a Missouri substitute certificate prior to the student teaching experience.

Note: Students must obtain a final grade of C or higher in each professional education course and maintain a GPA of 3.0 in all professional education courses. Students are not allowed to have grades below C in their content area concentrations and they must have a 3.0 in their chosen concentration to be recommended for certification. No more than two (2) grades of D in the general education courses required for graduation are acceptable and students are encouraged to retake courses in which they receive grades of D.

Prior to Student teaching, the pre-service teacher must:

1. Previously been admitted into the Teacher Education Program (TEP)
2. Pass the content exam within the first two attempts relative to the pre-service teacher's certification area.
3. Hold a valid Missouri substitute-teaching certificate.
4. Maintain a 3.0 education GPA Content GPA, and an overall 2.75 GPA.
5. Maintain a student membership in the Missouri State Teacher's Association.
6. Provide a formal request to student teach at least one semester prior to the intended student teaching experience sent to Jim Concannon. The request must be received one full semester prior to the intended student teaching experience. The request should indicate a school or a teacher if applicable. NOTE: Student teaching is required for certification.

**Changes to Coursework and Assessments**

At the time of this publication, The Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education - Office of Educator Quality is working with the Missouri legislature and all higher education institutions certifying teachers in the state as well as representative stakeholders groups to redesign the standards for educator preparation including certification requirements. The Westminister Education Department is currently revising some required coursework and developing some new courses. These changes and implementation schedule, expected to go into effect for all certification majors graduating after Spring of 2017, will be communicated to students through individual advising sessions, meetings, and/or other college communications. If there are any questions and/or concerns, please contact the Director of Educator Preparation in the Office of Educator Quality.

It is important to contact faculty in the Teacher Education Program for guidance in scheduling courses.

Policy regarding student teaching: Students enrolling in EDU 492 Student Teaching: Elementary; EDU 495 Student Teaching: Middle School; and EDU 497 Student Teaching: Secondary who are members of collegiate sports teams should a) plan to student teach during a semester in which their sport is not played, b) after their eligibility has expired, or c) during a semester in which they choose not to play.

If any substitutions of waivers of requirements are allowed, please list below and initial.

Course #	Title of Course	Hours Completed	Semester Completed	Grade

**MAJOR: Early Childhood Education (Birth through Grade 3)**

Student's Last Name		First Name	Middle Initial		
Advisor		Date Major Declared			
Course #	Title of Course	Hours Completed	Semester Completed	Grade	
<b>Required Core Early Childhood Education Courses:</b>					
EDU 101	Introduction to Teaching 1				
EDU 207	Health, Safety and P.E. 3				
EDU 210	Literature for Children 3				
EDU 221	Education Psychology 3				
EDU 230	Child and Adolescent Growth & Development 3				
EDU 231	Education of Exceptional Individuals 3				
EDU 260	Emergent Literacy 3				
EDU 280	Programs in Early Childhood Education 3				
EDU 288	Assessment in Early Childhood Education 3				
EDU 290	Foundations of Education 3				
EDU 392	Reading & Writing in Content Area 3				
EDU 453	Classroom Organization Management 3				
EDU 490	Education Seminar 3				
PSY 113	Psychology as a Social Science 3				
MAT 231	Mathematics for Element. & Middle School 3				
<b>Methods of Teaching Courses</b>					
EDU 203	Teaching Art, Music and Language Arts 3				
EDU 306	Teaching Reading 3				
EDU 310	Methods of Teaching Science 3				
EDU 380	Integrated Curriculum in ECE 3				
MAT 351	Methods of Teaching Elem./Middle Sch. Math 3				
<b>Field and Clinical Experience Courses</b>					
EDU 291	Education Practicum I 2				
EDU 393	Education Practicum II 2				
EDU 417	Advanced Practicum 1-3				
EDU 492	Student Teaching: Elementary School 12				
<b>Content Coursework</b>					
The content coursework for elementary and early childhood majors is considered to be the College's General Education Requirements.					