

## **Admissions Information**

The College's Board of Admissions approves all individuals admitted to Professional Teacher Education Programs. The Board of Admissions makes the decision to admit an individual based on written information supplied in advanced by the applicant and on information supplied by the applicant during an interview.

The membership of the Board of Admissions includes: (1) faculty representing the program to which the applicant is applying, (2) faculty representing other academic departments of the university, (3) a classroom teacher representing the program to which the applicant is applying, and (4) an advanced student in the program to which the applicant is applying. The Board of Admissions seeks to assess a variety of areas including the applicant's: (1) academic performance, (2) performance on standardized tests, (3) oral and written grammatical expressions, (4) poise and confidence, and (5) demonstrated interest in professional teacher education.

Prior experience with school age populations, whether in a classroom setting or in other informal educational settings, is strongly valued by the Board of Admissions. Individuals with limited educational experience working with this population are unlikely to be admitted to a professional education program. To allow students to gain this valuable experience the College offers Education 100: "Apple Corps".

The purpose of Apple Corps is to:

- allow students to observe and aid experienced teachers in a classroom setting;
- to increase awareness of self in relation to roles of classroom teachers;
- to explore career opportunities in Education;
- to familiarize students with the College's admission policies and process for becoming a candidate in the Teacher Education Program;
- provide an initial introduction to the College's Teacher Education faculty.

Apple Corps students spend a minimum of two hours in a classroom per week for ten weeks to a maximum of six hours per week in a classroom for ten weeks.

Once admitted to a Professional Teacher Education Program, a student is free to register for professional education courses. Faculty representing the program to which the student is admitted serves as the primary advisor, or as in the case of Elementary and Secondary Education, an additional advisor. Advisors assist students in choosing the appropriate courses in professional education and continue to serve as the student's advisor during the year-long internship experience.

An individual denied admission is allowed to re-submit written material and to interview again with the Board of Admissions. The Board of Admissions strongly encourages an individual who was denied admission to obtain feedback from the faculty member who chaired the Board of Admissions prior to requesting a second interview. It is recommended that second interview options be discussed with your advisor.

## **The Teacher Education Application Process**

The College of Education, Health and Human Sciences admits qualified applicants to the Professional Teacher Education Program twice during the academic year (Fall Semester and Spring Semester). Since the admissions period is not continuous, applicants are encouraged to closely monitor admission deadlines. The Teacher Education Admission Office publishes a Teacher Education calendar each academic year to assist applicants in meeting the requirements for admission to the Professional Teacher Education Program.

### **Step 1: Initial Admission Process –Application for the Teacher Education Program**

All applicants must complete and turn in an application for the Teacher Education Program.

Applications for admission are available from:

Nina Fox  
309A Claxton Complex  
Knoxville, TN 37996-3433  
865-974-4118  
Email: [nfox@utk.edu](mailto:nfox@utk.edu)

All applicants must pass a Hearing and Speech Screening.    *\*check for published dates\**

The hearing and speech screenings are available at the beginning of each semester. The screenings are conducted from 9:00 a.m. – Noon and 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Hearing and Speech Center at Peyton Manning pass and Phil Fulmer Drive. Prior to reporting to the Hearing and Speech Center, applicants should check-in with the Teacher Education Admission Office in room A309 Claxton Complex.

### **Step 2: Final Application Process – Permission to Interview with the Board of Admission**

The final admission step is to receive permission to interview with the Teacher Education Admission Board. The College's Teacher Education Admission Office tracks the eligibility of applicants who successfully complete Step 1: Initial Admission Process. Once the Teacher Education Admission Office determines that the applicant has attained the minimal requirements for admission to the Professional Teacher Education Program and may be eligible to interview with the Board of Admission, the applicant will be mailed written notification of minimum eligibility status. Minimal admission requirements include, but are not limited to:

A) Passing scores on the Pre-Professional Skills Test (Praxis I)    *check below for exemptions*

The Praxis I is the Pre-professional Skills test (PPST). This test is designed to measure basic skills in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. If you have a composite, enhanced ACT of 22 or a R-SAT of 1020 you will be exempt from the PPST. If your ACT or SAT scores were not submitted to The University of Tennessee as part of your admission material, you will need to submit scores to the Teacher Education Admission Office, in room A309 Claxton Complex to receive the exemption. If you already hold a bachelor's degree at the time of application to the Teacher Education program, you are exempt from the Praxis I: Pre-professional Skills Test.

PPST REGISTRATION: You can register to take the pencil and paper version of the PPST on-line at [www.ets.org/praxis](http://www.ets.org/praxis). To register by mail, download the bulletin/registration form and mail the completed form so that it will reach ETS before the registration deadline.

SYLVAN LEARNING CENTER: You can contact Sylvan Learning Center in Knoxville at 690-0671, to schedule a time to take the PPST. At Sylvan, the PPST is offered on computer.

B) Meet the minimum grade point average requirement (UT and transfer grades included)

Agriculture Education and Music Education required a 2.50 minimum grade point average. All other teacher education candidates must have a minimum grade point average of 2.70

C) Completion of specified semester credits in college coursework

a. 45 semester credits of college courses

Music: Vocal/General  
Music: Instrumental  
Special Education, Comprehensive K-12  
Special Education: Modified, K-12  
Special Education: Deaf and Hard of Hearing (Pre-K-12)  
Vocational Agriculture/Agriscience  
Visual Arts

b. 60 semester credits of college courses

Elementary: Early Childhood, PreK-grade 4  
Elementary: Grade K-8  
Elementary: Middle Grades 5-8 (program pending)

c. 75 semester credits of college course

English, 7-12 [requires 9 semester credits in English at the 300 level or higher with a 3.0 g.p.a. in all English courses]

Foreign Language, 7-12 [requires 9 semester credits in the targeted language with a 3.0 g.p.a. in target language(s)]

Mathematics, 7-12 [requires completion of Math 141, 142 and 6 credits of Math at the 200 level or higher]

Social Studies Subjects: Economics, 7-12; Geography, 7-12; Government, 7-12; History, 7-12; , Psychology, grades 9-12 and Sociology, grades 9-12 [no minimums stated]

Science Subjects: Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science and Physics [must have a minimum of 8 semester hours in a laboratory science completed in the target subject(s)].

### **Step 3: Interview with the College's Board of Admissions**

At the time all required admission materials are returned to the Teacher Education Admission Office, in A309 Claxton Complex, an interview time will be reserved for each applicant on a first-come, first-served basis. Interview times are 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. and will be scheduled over a two week period during each fall and spring semester.

All applicants who complete the interviewing process are informed by letter of the Board of Admissions decision. Faculty and staff cannot release admissions decisions by e-mail or over the telephone. Once you have been admitted to the Teacher Education Program, faculty advisors representing your licensure area will assist you with course selection and will offer you guidance as you advance through the program.

#### Overview of courses qualifying as specific semester credits

The University of Tennessee *Undergraduate Catalog* is the best source of information concerning specific courses for each licensure area. All applicants are strongly encouraged to study program requirements as listed in the *Undergraduate Catalog* and to meet with advisors from both the College of Education, Health and Human Sciences and the College of Arts and Sciences. Below is a brief overview of specific semester courses for several elementary and secondary licensure areas.

#### Elementary Education, Grades K-8

All prospective Elementary Education, K-8 teachers must select a major in Arts and Sciences in a subject taught in the middle schools, and complete the

minor in Elementary Education. Their general education requirements must include all areas required by the College of Arts and Sciences. In fulfilling Arts and Sciences general education requirements, it is recommended that students select at least one course in Economics, Geography, Political Science, Chemistry (recommend 150 or 160), Astronomy (recommend 151), and a biological science.

The minor in Elementary is 25 credits and includes the following courses:

Educational Psychology 210  
Information Science 330  
Instructional Technology 486  
Reading Education 430  
Special Education 402  
Elementary Education 351  
Elementary Education 422  
Cultural Studies 400  
Educational Psychology 401

#### Secondary Education, 7-12

All prospective Secondary Education teachers must select a major in the College of Arts and Sciences. The major must be in the subject they intend to teach. Students must also complete the minor in Secondary Education. In fulfilling Arts and Sciences General Education requirements, English majors must select one speech course; Social Sciences majors must select at least one Geography course; and science majors must select one Geology course.

The minor in Secondary Education includes the following courses:

Educational Psychology 210  
Theory and Practice in Teacher Education 355  
Instructional Technology 486  
Instructional Technology 352  
Educational Psychology 401  
Special Education 402  
Cultural Studies 400