



Elementary Teacher Education Application Guide

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OVERVIEW OF THE ELEMENTARY TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM AT ELMHURST COLLEGE

The two-year program is designed as a major for juniors and seniors with a minor in a high-need area. Due to its two-year “block” design, the program is “transfer-friendly” for students who begin their academic careers at community colleges.

Elmhurst College’s new Elementary Teacher Education program (ELM) has many unique features that are similar to the way in which medical professionals are prepared.

- The coursework and the clinical experiences in schools are coordinated and supervised by faculty during every semester.
- The courses are scheduled and offered together in “blocks” with each block focusing on different grade levels and students.
 - Block 1 focuses on 1st – 3rd grade classrooms.
 - Block 2 centers on 4th – 6th grade self-contained classrooms in an elementary school.
 - Block 3 involves day-long internships in schools and concentrates on meeting the needs of individual students and building an inclusive classroom.
 - Block 4 is a 15-week full-time student teaching clinical experience in a 1st – 6th grade classroom.
- Each of the four semesters has an Instructional Block Teaching Team of faculty who coordinates courses and fieldwork, co-teach courses, and supervise students in their prearranged school sites.
- Students in the program complete a minor in one of four high-need areas:
 - Mathematics Education
 - Reading Education (earns the Reading Teacher Endorsement)
 - Educating Students with Exceptionalities (earns the Learning Behavior Specialist 1(LBS1) Endorsement)
 - Teaching English Learners (earns the ESL or Bilingual Endorsement)
 - If you are bilingual, please take the Language Proficiency Test ASAP. It must be passed by November 15th of the Block 1 term.

OVERVIEW OF REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION FOR APPLICATION TO THE ELEMENTARY TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM AT ELMHURST COLLEGE

APPLICATION DATES

The Elementary Teacher Education program admits a maximum of 18 students each fall semester. Applications may be submitted during the sophomore year while required coursework is in progress. *Minimum of 10 students required for cohorts.*

Applications will be accepted for Fall admissions beginning February 1st.
Applications will be reviewed the first of each month until the cohort is filled.
All four areas of specialization are offered with fall admission

— A COMPLETED APPLICATION

A formal application must be submitted by the specified dates [see above]. The Elementary Teacher Education application is electronic. The form may be downloaded from the Admissions page at:

<https://www.elmhurst.edu/academics/departments/education/admission-requirements/elementary-education>

The application requires the newest version of Adobe Reader™, which is available on the Admissions page. All applications are submitted electronically to ELMAdmissions@elmhurst.edu

Applications should be submitted in advance of the following required ancillary documents: exam scores, recommendations, Elmhurst College degree audit/transfer institution transcript and criminal background investigation (CBI). Exam scores, recommendations, degree audit/transcript and the CBI will be added to your application file upon receipt by the Director of Teacher Education Admission. The date of admission is the date on which all materials have been received and admission is approved by the Department of Education.

The application requires that you have:

1. Chosen an area of specialization. See the following section that describes the four areas of specialization and the requirements for each area in this *Guide*.
2. Chosen two professionals to provide recommendations. See the section below on recommendations
3. Completed a well-written personal statement as part of the application. Personal statements should be written as a maximum 500-word statement and pasted into the application. A personal statement must address the following topics:
 - a. Your primary reason for seeking a Professional Educator License in elementary education (grades 1-6);
 - b. Your experiences in working with elementary children (ages 6-12) and their families in community and 1st - 6th grade school settings (Do not include childcare settings). Include references to any recommendation that will be completed by a professional educator who has supervised you in the field;
 - c. The reason for your first choice for an area of specialization. Address only your first choice
 - Educating Students with Exceptionalities (Special Education)
 - Mathematics Education
 - Reading Education
 - d. [optional] Additional goals you have as a future elementary educator.

— CREATE AN ELIS ACCOUNT

Individual Educator Identification Number (IEIN). IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, CREATE AN ACCOUNT ON THE EDUCATOR LICENSURE INFORMATION SYSTEM (ELIS) at https://sec3.isbe.net/IWASNET/sign_up.aspx

____ **FORMAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

Forms for Recommendations are located on the website with the application. Download these forms and fill in your personal information at the top. Print the forms and provide them with self-addressed envelopes to two professional educators.

The recommendations should be requested from college professors or school-based professionals who can best complete the recommendation form and support your choice for an area of specialization. For example, good choices for a special education area of specialization might be a special education course professor and a mentor teacher who supervised you in fieldwork with learners with exceptionalities. Recommendations may not be requested from a family member or personal friend. The names of these recommenders should be referenced in your letter of application when you discuss your choice for your area of specialization.

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION (CBI)

An Illinois State Police criminal background fingerprint check is required for admission. The CBI must have been completed within one year prior to the date of admission. All students admitted to a teacher education program must follow the **Elmhurst College Teacher Education Criminal Background Policy** provided on the website with the application. No CBI should be submitted if there was an arrest after the date on the CBI, rather a new CBI should be completed and submitted that was at least 30 days after the arrest date.

All CBIs are reviewed by the Director of Teacher Education Admissions and returned to the applicant. If a CBI indicates an applicant may have a criminal record that would make it difficult to secure field placements or may not meet licensure requirements, the Department of Education chairperson and Director of Elementary Teacher Education will contact the applicant for a meeting. The Department of Education provides opportunities for students to obtain CBIs on campus several times a year. For more information contact: Judith Kaminski, Director of Student Teaching & Field Experiences, at judithk@elmhurst.edu

RUBRIC FOR ADMISSION TO ELEMENTARY TEACHER EDUCATION (ELM) PROGRAM

2 Formal Recommendations 1 2 3	Considering both recommendations: 3 = All ratings are <u>above average or higher</u> with no more than 2 total unrated categories. 2 = All ratings are <u>average or higher</u> with no more than 4 unrated categories on both forms. 1 = Below average rating on a form, or 6 or more categories unrated
Personal Statement 1 2 3	3 = All questions were explicitly addressed with <u>appropriate</u> and well-supported answers. Writing was <u>well</u> organized and <u>errorless</u> . 2 = All questions were <u>appropriately</u> answered, explicitly or implicitly. Writing was organized with minor or no writing errors. 1 = Questions were <u>partially or inappropriately</u> answered, and/or writing was low quality with numerous errors or poor organization. Rater #1 _____ Rater #2 _____ Rater #3 (if needed) _____
2.75 Minimum Cumulative GPA 1 2 3	3 = 3.500+ 2 = 3.000-3.499 1 = 2.750-2.999 CUM GPA = _____ Education Grade Check: <input type="checkbox"/> All licensure courses "C" or higher <input type="checkbox"/> Major GPA (9 sh+) meets requirements = _____ (or n/a)
English Composition Course (ENG 106) 1 2 3	3 = Composition course passed with A or higher (may be AP) 2 = Composition course passed with B or higher 1 = Composition course passed with C or higher
ELM Prerequisite Coursework 1 2 3	3 = All prerequisite courses will be completed at end of term prior to admission 2 = One prerequisite course needed 1 = Two prerequisite courses needed
ECIC Coursework (General Education) 1 2 3	3 = All ECIC courses will be completed at end of term prior to admission 2 = One ECIC course needed 1 = Two ECIC courses needed
<input type="checkbox"/> Check junior standing at end of term prior to admission.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Passing score on TAP, ACT + Writing or SAT w/Essay	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fingerprint Background Check shows no criminal history. [Applicants with a criminal history must meet with Program Director and Chairperson]	

Total Evaluation Points: _____/18

Potential Candidate: _____

Minor/Specialization: _____

Date Application Completed: _____ Term Applied For: _____

Admission Director's Signature: _____ Date: _____

DIRECTOR: ADMIT FOR FALL 20_____

DO NOT ADMIT

ELM Director's Signature: _____

POLICIES & PROCEDURES FOR ADMISSION TO ELEMENTARY TEACHER EDUCATION

Applicants cannot be admitted to a teacher education program until they are first admitted to Elmhurst College. A Department of Education application will have an application completion date reflecting when all required materials were finally received by the Department of Education. Admission decisions are made monthly and candidates will be notified of their application review status within 30 days from the receipt of their completed application. **If an applicant meets admission requirements, but space is no longer available in the specific program for the requested term, admission will be offered for the next term in which the program accepts new candidates.**

The *Director of Teacher Education Admission* will inform applicants in writing of admission decisions. A letter of admission will include:

- The semester for admission;
- The area of specialization; and
- The name of a faculty member assigned to the newly admitted teacher education candidate. All candidates are required to meet with this faculty member at least two weeks prior to the beginning of their first semester in program to confirm that all prerequisites have been met and to plan their two-year course plan.

Applicants with minimal qualifications may be denied admission. There is no appeal for applicants who are denied admission based on the quality of their application. An established appeal procedure is available for applicants who feel that their applications were not properly processed. Students may not reapply to any teacher education program once they have been denied admission.

Applicants admitted to a teacher education program may request a change to another program on a space available basis and with approval of the new Program Director. Field hours completed for a previous program may not be credited toward the new program. Changing programs could delay program or degree completion.

Admission to a teacher education program does not guarantee admission to student teaching. All teacher candidates must meet specific requirements for remaining in a teacher education program and must apply for student teaching. State examinations also are required prior to admission to student teaching.

Review of teacher candidates is continuous. Candidates who are removed from a teacher education program or not admitted to student teaching have the right to appeal the decision to the College's *Teacher Education Committee*.

PREREQUISITE COURSEWORK FOR ADMISSION TO ELEMENTARY TEACHER EDUCATION [ELM]

The following chart of Elmhurst College courses provides the prerequisite coursework. Transfer students should contact the Department of Education or the Office of Admissions at Elmhurst College for information regarding equivalent courses at their prior institutions.

- All courses in this chart require grades of C (2.0) or higher to fulfill licensure, major, and minor requirements. Note that C-minus grades do not fulfill requirements.
- AP credit may be accepted for any prerequisite course according to Elmhurst College guidelines. AP credit must appear on the college transcript to be accepted.
- Students must complete at least half of their ELM courses at Elmhurst College and must complete three full terms (fall and spring) at EC prior to student teaching.

The following prerequisite courses must be completed during the freshman and sophomore years before entering the ELM program:	
Education:	EDU 104 Cultural Foundations of Education in the US
	EDU 223 Education of PK-12 Learners with Exceptionalities (sophomore year) – <i>requires field experiences</i>
	EDU/PSY 311 Educational Psychology (sophomore year) <i>prereq ENG 106; EDU 104 or PSY 210 – requires field experiences</i>
The following prerequisite courses should be completed during the freshman and sophomore years but at most one of these courses could be taken with Block 1 during the first term in the ELM program:	
Mathematics :	MTH 121 College Algebra or higher (AP credit accepted for calculus)
	MTH 327*** (.5) [spring only; does not count for math minor] or MTH 345 Elementary Statistics (1.0) or MTH 346 (1.0) or PSY 355 (1.0) (AP credit accepted for statistics)
Science: two courses with a lab chosen from 2 of 3 areas (AoK noted)	Physical Science (all are PS): CHM 100, CHM 101, CHM/PHY 107***, CHM 110, CHM 211, PHY 101, AST 212 Life Science (all are LS): BIO 100, BIO 104, BIO 105, BIO 300, BID 103 Earth and Space Science (all are PS): GEO 102***, GEO 105, BID 103
Social Science: two courses chosen from 2 of 4 areas (AoK noted)	Economics: ECO 100***, ECO 210, ECO 211 Geography: GEO 111 (SPA), GEO 112 (SPA), GEO 218 (RSC) History: HIS 111 (HA), HIS 112 (HA), HIS 116 (HA), HIS 301 (HA), HIS 302 (HA), HIS 304 Political Science: POL 150*** (SPA) POL 201 (SPA), POL 202 (SPA), POL 302 (SPA), URB 291 (SPA)
One of the following prerequisite TEL courses should be completed during the sophomore year but can be taken during the ELM program. Permission to register for a TEL course takes place in the Department of Education office and all TEL courses require off campus field experiences.	
Teaching English Learners: one course required	TEL 204 Cross-cultural Studies for English Language Learners [fall and spring terms] TEL 212 Theoretical Foundations of Teaching English Language Learners [fall and January terms] TEL 319 Linguistics for Second Language Learning [spring term]

***Recommended

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION IN ELEMENTARY TEACHER EDUCATION

When admitted to the Elementary Teacher Education (ELM) program, candidates are simultaneously admitted to 1 of 4 areas of specialization. The coursework in these areas of specialization are completed in parallel with the ELM coursework. All areas of specialization represent minors at Elmhurst College when the candidate declares the minor with Advising. Some areas of specialization may be used to complete endorsements on an Illinois Professional Educator's License (PEL) as noted.

Our school partners helped us identify 4 areas of specialization that are needed most at the elementary level. Choosing an area of specialization is an important decision, so please contact the professors who coordinate each area of specialization for more information.

TEACHING ENGLISH LEARNERS (TEL) AS AN AREA OF SPECIALIZATION, MINOR, & ENDORSEMENT

Admissions. Teacher candidates who want to earn the State of Illinois ESL or Bilingual endorsements on their Professional Educator License will apply to the TEL minor after being admitted to the Elementary Education program. Admissions to this minor are limited because Elementary and Early Childhood Education applicants form this 20-candidate cohort.

Course Sequence. The TEL minor requires 6 courses with a minor GPA of 2.750 and C (2.0) or higher in all courses. The courses are scheduled throughout the ELM blocks with one TEL course in Block 1, two TEL courses in Block 2, and two TEL courses in Block 3. One TEL course is during the January term between Blocks 1 & 2. A 1-semester-hour capstone project also is required during student teaching. Therefore, all TEL minors must complete student teaching in an elementary classroom with English language learners. TEL minors who are seeking the bilingual endorsement should plan to take the Target Language Proficiency Test before Block 2 & TEL 317. <http://www.il.nesinc.com>

Prerequisites. Candidates admitted to the TEL minor must have all prerequisite coursework finished [See the section *Prerequisite Coursework for Elementary Teacher Education*].

Schedule flexibility. There is room in the ELM/TEL schedule for one additional course (i.e. from the Elmhurst College Integrated Curriculum) during Block 1 (first semester in ELM). Candidates may seek permission for a second additional course during Block 3 (third semester in ELM), but this represents a .25 credit overload, which requires a CUM GPA of 3.000 and additional tuition for the semester hour of coursework. The Block 3 overload is not recommended as candidates spend full days in their prospective student teaching placements during Block 3.

Additional information. Some TEL courses are offered only in the evening. The Bilingual endorsement requires a language proficiency test. The ESL and Bilingual endorsements both require an additional 100 hours of field experiences, which are distributed throughout the 6 courses.

For further information on the TEL minor contact Dr. Beverly Troiano Beverly.troiano@elmhurst.edu in the Department of Education.

**MATHEMATICS EDUCATION (MTH)
AS AN AREA OF SPECIALIZATION & MINOR**

Admissions. Teacher candidates are able to earn a minor in Elementary Mathematics. This minor is offered through the Mathematics Department.

Course Sequence. The mathematics minor is course specific which means designated courses must be completed. The minor also has a minimum number of semester hours, so elective courses in mathematics may be needed to meet the 18-hour requirements. The requirements are:

Elementary Mathematics Minor
MTH 132 Pre-calculus or MTH 151 Calculus I or MTH 152 Calculus II
MTH 325 Mathematical Concepts for Elementary Teachers I
MTH 326 Mathematical Concepts for Elementary Teachers II (.5) or MTH 331 Foundations of Geometry (prereq. MTH 152 or MTH 301; fall only)
MTH 345 Elementary Statistics or 346 Statistics for Scientists (prereq. MTH 151)
<i>Additional mathematics courses are needed to meet 18 semester hours; courses may be less than 3 semester hours</i>
Recommended: MTH 199 Mathematical Software (prereq. MTH 152; fall term in odd years); MTH 301 Discrete Mathematics (prereq. MTH 151)

All courses must have a grade of C or higher. At least half of the course credits must be completed at Elmhurst College in order for the courses to count for the math minor.

Prerequisites. Candidates admitted to a MTH minor must have all prerequisite coursework finished [See the section *Prerequisite Coursework for Elementary Teacher Education*] and **all prerequisite courses for Pre-calculus (MTH 132) or calculus (MTH 151)**. AP credit will be accepted for the requirements of calculus and statistics [6 semester hours].

Schedule flexibility. There is room for 2-3 additional courses with this area of specialization. Elementary Mathematics minors have room in their schedules for 2-3 additional courses [the number of courses depends on whether Block 1 (first semester in ELM) is started in Fall or Spring]. Students could take MTH 132 or MTH 151 or MTH 152, MTH 326 or MTH 331, and MTH 325 with the Elementary blocks. If these courses are completed prior to entering Block 1, there may be additional space in the schedule to pursue a second minor, study away, etc.

For further information on the Mathematics Education minor contact Dr. Jeanne White whitej521@elmhurst.edu in the Department of Education or the chairperson in the Department of Mathematics.

READING EDUCATION (REE) AS AN AREA OF SPECIALIZATION, MINOR, & ENDORSEMENT

Admissions. Teacher candidates who want to earn the State of Illinois Reading Teacher endorsement on their Professional Educator License apply to the Reading Education area of specialization and will be assigned to the Reading Education minor upon being admitted to the ELM major.

Course Sequence. The Reading Education minor requires 26 semester hours of specific coursework with a minor GPA of 2.750 and C (2.0) or higher in all courses.

Prerequisites. Candidates admitted to the Reading Education minor must have all prerequisite coursework finished [See the section *Prerequisite Coursework for Elementary Teacher Education*].

Schedule flexibility. There is room in the Reading Education minor schedule for 1-2 additional courses, depending on when candidates begin Block 1 (first semester in ELM) in the Fall or Spring. Candidates may seek permission for an additional course during Block 3 (third semester in ELM), but this represents a .5 credit overload and requires a CUM GPA of 3.000 and additional tuition for the 2 semester hours of coursework. The Block 3 overload is not recommended as candidates spend one day in their prospective student teaching placements during Block 3 and will have their reading practicum course after school two days a week.

Reading Education minors are encouraged to complete a children's literature course (ENG 314) prior to beginning Block 1.

Additional information. Some Reading Education courses are offered only in specific semesters. One required course, EDU 441, and one elective course, EDU 373, are in the January-term only.

The Reading Teacher endorsement also requires an additional State licensure exam (#177). The Reading Teacher endorsement not only enhances the elementary classroom teacher's knowledge and skills in teaching reading, but many school districts hire teachers with this endorsement as the reading teacher for the building.

For further information on the Reading Education minor contact Dr. Debbie Cosgrove debbie.cosgrove@elmhurst.edu in the Department of Education.

EDUCATING STUDENTS WITH EXCEPTIONALITIES (SPE)

AS AN AREA OF SPECIALIZATION, MINOR, & ENDORSEMENT

Admissions. Teacher candidates who want to earn the State of Illinois LBS1 (Learning Behavior Specialist or “special education”) endorsement on their Professional Educator License apply to the area of specialization, Educating Students with Exceptionalities.

Earning the LBS1 endorsement with an Elementary endorsement means that students with disabilities may be placed in the Elementary teacher’s classroom for special education services to be provided by the classroom teacher. Although this endorsement is in high need, it is not the same as earning the K-12 Special Education endorsement, which is in high demand (see the Special Education Major).

Admissions to the Educating Students with Exceptionalities minor are limited because applicants join the Special Education major cohort for some coursework.

Course Sequence. The SPE minor requires 6 special education courses (22 semester hours) with a minor GPA of 2.750 and C (2.0) or higher in all courses. The courses are distributed as follows: SPE 220 is taken in the first J-term, SPE 434 is a fall only course, SPE 338 and SPE 438 are spring only courses, SPE 440 and SPE 442 are included in the ELM Major and are taken in Block 3.

Prerequisites. Candidates admitted to the Educating Students with Exceptionalities minor **must have all prerequisite coursework finished** [See the section *Prerequisite Coursework for Elementary Teacher Education*].

Additional information. Special Education courses will require additional field hours in special education settings K-12.

For further information on the Educating Students with Exceptionalities minor and major contact Dr. Lisa Burke lisab@elmhurst.edu in the Department of Education.