

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION, B.EL.ED.

Seven Penn State campuses are scheduled for closure after Spring 2027: DuBois, Fayette, New Kensington, Mont Alto, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, and York. New students are not being admitted at these campuses.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: Harrisburg

Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Elementary Education degree in Elementary Education, PK-4 Early Childhood Option a minimum of 123 credits are required; Grade 4-8 English/Language Arts and Reading Option a minimum of 121 credits are required; Grade 4-8 Mathematics Option a minimum of 120 credits are required; and Grade 4-8 Social Studies Option a minimum of 121 credits are required:

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Requirements for the Major	120-123

45 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: 6 credits of GA courses; 6 credits of GH courses; 3 credits of GHW courses; 9 credits of GN courses; 6 credits of GQ courses; 6 credits of GS courses; 9 credits of GWS courses. Six of these 45 credits may also satisfy the Integrative Studies requirement.

Requirements for the Major

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>).

Common Requirements for the Major (All Options)

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
CAS 100A	Effective Speech	3
CI 295	Introductory Field Experience for Teacher Preparation	3
EDPSY 14	Learning and Instruction	3
EDTHP 115S	Competing Rights: Issues in American Education	3
EDUC 303	Inclusive Practices in General Education Classrooms	3
EDUC 304	Classroom Organization and Management	3
EDUC 305	Creative Arts	3
EDUC 315Y	Social and Cultural Factors in Education	3
EDUC 321	Methods in Teaching Intermediate and Advanced Readers	3
EDUC 352	Teaching Language Arts	3
EDUC 353	Teaching Elementary Social Studies	3
EDUC 385	Professional Development in Teaching	3
EDUC 454	Modern Elementary Science Education	3

EDUC 466N	Foundations of Teaching English as a Second Language	3
EDUC 490	Student Teaching	9
EDUC 495A	Junior Field Experience	1
EDUC 495B	Senior Field Experience	3
ENGL 202A	Effective Writing: Writing in the Social Sciences	3
GEOG 126	Economic Geography	3
MATH 200	Problem Solving in Mathematics	3
MATH 201	Problem Solving in Mathematics II	3

Additional Courses

Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better

ENGL 15	Rhetoric and Composition	3
or ENGL 30H	Honors Rhetoric and Composition	
HDFS 229	Infant and Child Development ¹	3
or HDFS 239	Adolescent Development	
Select 3 credits from GN Biological Science		3
Select 3 credits from GN Earth Science		3
Select 3 credits from GN Physical Science		3
Select 6 credits from GA courses		6
Select 3 credits from GHW courses		3

Requirements for the Option

Requirements for the Option: Require a grade of C or better

Select an option	29-32
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¹ Students in the PK-4 Early Childhood Option must choose HDFS 229. Students in any of the Grade 4-8 Options should choose HDFS 239.

Requirements for the Option

PK-4 Early Childhood Education Option (32 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
EDMTH 301	Mathematics in Elementary Education I	3
EDUC 306	Physical Education, Health, and Safety in Elementary Schools	2
EDUC 320	Methods in Teaching Beginning Readers	3
EDUC 403	Curriculum for Early Childhood	3
EDUC 404	Young Children's Behavior: Observation and Evaluation	3
EDUC 410	The Child and Social Institutions	3
EDUC 421	Children's Literature	3

Additional Courses

Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better

EDMTH 302	Mathematics in Elementary Education II ¹	3
or SPLED 409C	Mathematics Instruction for Students with Special Needs	
Select 3 credits of History courses from the following:		3
HIST/AMST 3	The American Nation: Historical Perspectives	
HIST 12	History of Pennsylvania	
HIST 20	American Civilization to 1877	
HIST 21	American Civilization Since 1877	
Select 3 credits of Literature courses		3
Select 3 credits of Elective courses		3

¹ Select SPLED 409C if completing Special Education Certificate.

English/Language Arts and Reading (4-8) Option (30 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
EDMTH 302	Mathematics in Elementary Education II	3
EDUC 416	Teaching Secondary English and the Humanities	3
ENGL 470	Rhetorical Theory and Practice	3
LLED 420	Teaching Adolescent Literature and Literacy	3
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
EDMTH 301	Mathematics in Elementary Education I ¹ or SPLED 409C Mathematics Instruction for Students with Special Needs	3
Select 3 credits of British Literature ²		3
Select 6 credits of American Literature ²		6
Select 3 credits of History from the following:		3
HIST/AMST 3	The American Nation: Historical Perspectives	
HIST 12	History of Pennsylvania	
HIST 20	American Civilization to 1877	
HIST 21	American Civilization Since 1877	
Select 3 credits of Elective courses		3

¹ Select SPLED 409C for Special Education Certificate.

² Choice of American and British literature courses must include 3 credits of a GH course and 6 credits of Inter-Domain courses.

Mathematics (4-8) Option (29 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
EDMTH 302	Mathematics in Elementary Education II	3
EDUC 417	Teaching Secondary Mathematics	3
MATH 22	College Algebra With Analytic Geometry and Applications II	3
MATH 37	Finite Mathematics	3
MATH 140	Calculus With Analytic Geometry I	4
STAT 200	Elementary Statistics	4
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
EDMTH 301	Mathematics in Elementary Education I ¹ or SPLED 409C Mathematics Instruction for Students with Special Needs	3
Select 3 credits of Literature Courses		3
Select 3 credits of History courses from the following:		3
HIST/AMST 3	The American Nation: Historical Perspectives	
HIST 12	History of Pennsylvania	
HIST 20	American Civilization to 1877	
HIST 21	American Civilization Since 1877	

¹ Select SPLED 409C if completing Special Education Certificate.

Social Studies (4-8) Option (30 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
EDMTH 302	Mathematics in Elementary Education II	3
EDUC 415	Teaching Secondary Social Studies	3
HIST 12	History of Pennsylvania	3
HIST 20	American Civilization to 1877	3
HIST 21	American Civilization Since 1877	3
HIST 320	Contemporary World History and Issues	3
PLSC 1	American Politics: Principles, Processes and Powers	3
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
EDMTH 301	Mathematics in Elementary Education I ¹ or SPLED 409C Mathematics Instruction for Students with Special Needs	3
Select 3 credits of Literature courses		3
Select 3 credits of Elective courses		3

¹ Select SPLED 409C if completing the Special Education Certificate.

General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/>) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Quantification (GQ):** 6 credits
- **Writing and Speaking (GWS):** 9 credits

Breadth in the Knowledge Domains (Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Arts (GA):** 3 credits
- **Health and Wellness (GHW):** 3 credits
- **Humanities (GH):** 3 credits
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS):** 3 credits
- **Natural Sciences (GN):** 3 credits

Integrative Studies

- **Inter-Domain Courses (Inter-Domain):** 6 credits

Exploration

- **GN**, may be completed with Inter-Domain courses: 3 credits
- **GA, GH, GN, GS, Inter-Domain courses.** This may include 3 credits of World Language course work beyond the 12th credit level or the

requirements for the student's degree program, whichever is higher: 6 credits

University Degree Requirements

First Year Engagement

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits

A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition

The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.