

Teacher Licensure: Post-Baccalaureate Requirements for Initial and Add-on Endorsement

Conceptual Framework: A Teacher-Student Dynamic of Sensitivity, Reflection and Faith

Mission Statement

The mission of the Teacher Education Program is to prepare highly effective teachers within an environment of sensitivity, reflection, and faith: teachers who are sensitive to the diverse learning needs of their students; competent teachers who embrace reflective scholarship and a spirit of inquiry; and teachers who carefully consider their world view and integrate in their classrooms Christian values such as stewardship of the environment, belief in the dignity and worth of each individual, and grace to lead, empower, and motivate every student to enjoy learning and to continue learning for a lifetime.

Goals

On completion of the Teacher Education Program, students will have developed:

- Understanding of the growth and development of children and adolescents and sensitivity to their diverse learning needs;
- Academic competence in a broad base of general education and in a major appropriate for the licensure being sought
- Knowledge of a variety of effective teaching methods and materials which utilize skills that effectively apply content knowledge and knowledge of children and adolescents to the learning environment;
- Awareness that teachers need continuing professional growth to remain effective and desire to pursue further study;
- Knowledge of the ethical and professional responsibilities of teachers and an understanding of the teacher's role as a leader in the community;
- A desire to have a lifestyle that demonstrates Christian values.

NCATE Accreditation

The Teacher Education Program is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) 2010 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.,

Suite 500, Washington, DC 20036; phone 202-466-7496. This accreditation covers initial teacher preparation programs and advanced educator programs.

Profile of the Teacher Education Program

To be licensed to teach in the State of Tennessee, prospective teachers must earn a bachelor's degree with a major in an academic field and meet specific fectinbep:08 T-2ihat

Post-Baccalaureate Requirements

pleted by the Supervisor or principal indicating grade, subject, and dates taught along with copies of local evaluations completed by the supervisor and/or principal and a copy of Praxis II (NTE) scores. If the Dean deems that the experience is within the guidelines of Union's policy, he/she will allow the experience to substitute for student teaching. If denied, the candidate may appeal the decision to the Teacher Education Committee.

Application for teacher licensure. Applications for Tennessee teacher licensure are completed during a student teaching seminar and are filed with the Tennessee State Department of Education when all requirements are completed.

Academic Policies

Minimum GPA requirements. Minimum GPA's are listed above. Following admission to the TEP, if the GPA drops below the minimum, the student is removed from the TEP and may not take any courses that require admission to the TEP. In this case it is strongly recommended that the student repeat courses that caused the GPA to fall below the minimum required. When the GPA is at or above the minimum, the student will be submitted for readmission to the TEP.

Early field experiences. As is required by national standards and by the Tennessee State Department of Education guidelines, early field experiences are a vital part of the TEP at Union. The purpose of these early field experiences is to introduce the prospective teacher to a variety of school settings, learners, and routine activities. The knowledge and skills introduced in course work will be refined in the early field experiences.

Proof of professional liability insurance is required of all students enrolled in courses with field experiences. This expense is the responsibility of the student. Options for this coverage include, but are not limited to, membership in Student Tennessee Education Association, Christian Educators' Association International, or Professional Educators of Tennessee. Liability insurance is also available through Union