

## Certification Program in PK-4 Elementary Education

The certification program in PK-4 Education is designed for an individual who holds a baccalaureate degree and wishes to become certified to teach at the early childhood level Pre-K through grade 4 in Pennsylvania schools. Students who successfully complete the program requirements will be recommended for the Grades Pre-Kindergarten-4: Instructional I teaching certificate.

The program is approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

## Professional Licensure/Certification

Many US states and territories require professional licensure/certification to be employed. If you plan to pursue employment in a licensed profession after completing this program, please visit the Professional Licensure/Certification Disclosures by State interactive map. Degree Conferred: None; this program is for attaining PA teacher certification only.



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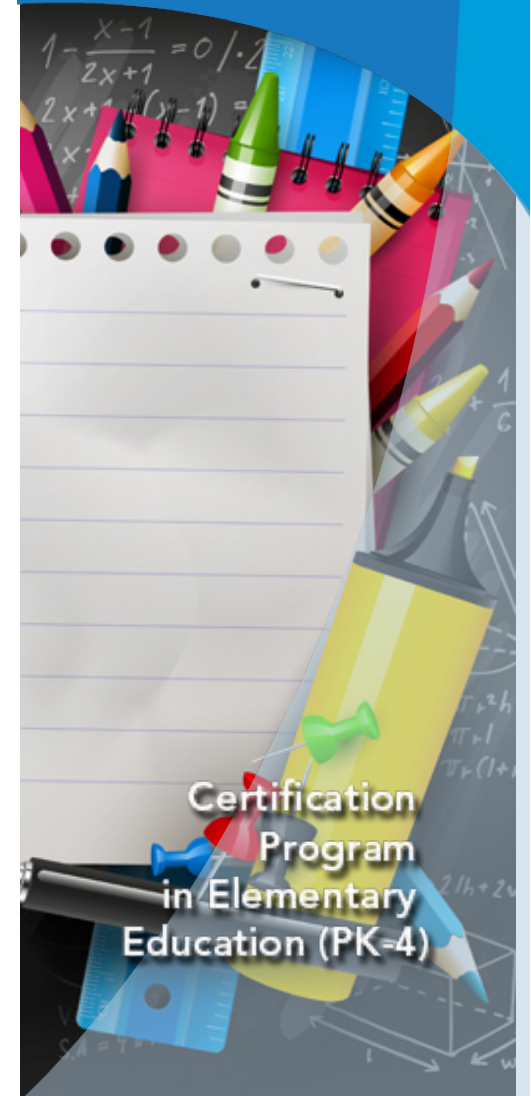
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## Curriculum

### Program Requirements

The PK-4 Education Certification Program requires students to take an array of courses in the field of education. All courses required for certification, including field experiences, must be completed with a grade of C or better prior to student teaching. The program requirements are listed on the Courses page.

### Program Notes

A minimum grade of C is required in all courses for certification; however, a 3.0 grade-point average is required to be eligible for student teaching and for certification.

### Master's Degree Track

All post-baccalaureate candidates have the option of placing themselves on track to earn a Master of Education degree in Teaching and Curriculum while concurrently working toward Pennsylvania certification. If this path interests you, you may seek more information during your initial intake meeting with the program coordinator.



## Courses Overview

The curriculum for this teacher certification program is designed based on the applicant's life and professional experiences. A list of possible courses for an individual's academic plan can be found in the Undergraduate Bulletin. The program specifically caters to individuals who are considering changing careers and wish to pursue PA teacher certification, as well as for those who are currently working in an education setting and are seeking a formal teaching certificate.

### Field Experience Requirements (3 Options)

#### Option One: Year-long Clinical Residency

- Participate in the year-long clinical residency during the final academic year in the program. This includes enrolling in EDUC 495B: Senior Field Experience (3 additional credits) in the Fall semester and EDUC 490: Student Teaching (9 credits) in the Spring semester. \*Residency can only run from fall to spring.

#### Option Two: Traditional Approach (clinical residency optional)

- Take EDUC 495A: Junior Field Experience (spring semester) or EDUC 495B: Senior Field Experience (fall semester) (3 additional credits);
- Take EDUC 490: Student Teaching (9 credits) in the final semester.

#### Option Three: Candidate-directed Experience (clinical residency optional)

- Candidate arranges own clinical observation experience over the course of the first year, with required documentation and assignments.
- Take EDUC 490: Student Teaching (9 credits) in the final semester.

### Additional Requirements

- Take and pass the following PECT certification exams by the beginning of the second semester in the program:
  - Pre-K-4 Module 2: Language, Social Studies, Arts (8007) with a passing score of 193;
  - Pre-K-4 Module 3: Math, Science, Health (8008) with a passing score of 193

**Note:** A third exam (Pre-K-4 Module 1: Child Dev., Assessment, Professionalism (8006) with a passing score of 197) is required for PA certification at the end of the program.

For a complete list of courses, [visit the University Bulletin](#).

## Program Requirements for Admission

The Penn State Harrisburg certification program in PK-4 leads to an Instructional Level I Pennsylvania Teaching Certificate. The program is designed for any individual who currently holds a bachelor's degree with a 3.0 or above GPA. Work experience and teaching experience, including substitute teaching, are considered in the application and proposed academic plan. One semester of student teaching is required to receive the state certification. The following are required along with the application:

- Bachelor's degree attained (verified with submitted transcripts)
- Minimum 3.0 GPA (last 60 credits) – If GPA is below 3.0, prospective candidates can take 9 credits of content courses and earn a B or higher in each to “reset” their GPA to an equivalent of 3.0.
- Submission of clear background checks (FBI, state police, child abuse)

Degree Conferred: None – This program is for attaining PA teacher certification only.

Students who successfully complete the requirements will be recommended for the a PA Instructional I teaching certificate in their selected certification program area. These programs are approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

To learn more and/or apply to a program, visit <https://harrisburg.psu.edu/teacher-certification>

