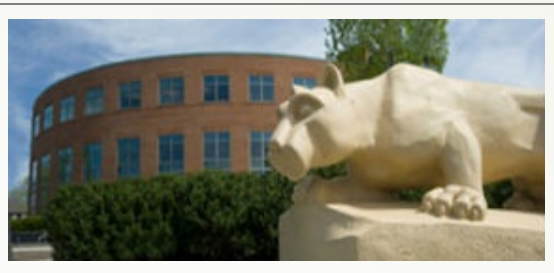


Bachelor of Elementary Education in Elementary Education

The Elementary Education Program at Penn State Harrisburg grants a bachelor's degree to students who meet the requirements of the program. Upon successful completion of requirements to earn a degree, PSH will recommend students for certification by the state department of education. In pursuit of elementary education certification, students have options for how they wish to focus their career. Penn State Harrisburg offers an option that leads to certification in

- Grades Pre-Kindergarten through 4th Grade
- 4th Grade through 8th Grade English/Language Arts
- 4th Grade through 8th Grade Math
- 4th Grade through 8th Grade Social Studies.

This program is recognized by the [Pennsylvania Department of Education \(PDE\)](#) and the [Association for Childhood Education International \(ACEI\)](#).



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PennState
Harrisburg

**School of Behavioral
Sciences and Education**



**Bachelor of Elementary
Education in Elementary
Education**

Curriculum

Certification

The Penn State Harrisburg PreK-4 and 4-8 teacher preparation programs are designed to provide candidates with the experiences necessary to become certified teachers of grades PreK-4 or 4-8. Graduates can work in public, private, or parochial school systems. Students may complete the PreK-4 program and complete an exam for certification to teach grades PreK through 4 or can complete the middle level 4-8 program to teach grades 4-8 concentrating in English / Language Arts, Math, or Social studies. Following graduation, students must be certified to teach by meeting any test and clearance requirements of a particular state.

Field Experience

The Elementary Education program offers extensive field experiences during the junior year prior to student teaching. An objective of the program is the development of reflective practice and independence. During the junior year, candidates complete all other courses required for certification, including a part-time field placement in a local school each semester. This is followed by a part-time field experience in the first semester of the senior year and a twelve-week, full-time student teaching experience in the final semester.

Optional Additional Certificate in ESL

Undergraduate elementary education candidates can complete an additional [English as a Second Language Program Specialist Certificate](#) along with their primary certificate in elementary education. This certificate consists of 16 additional credits, which can later be used toward an education master's degree.

Optional Additional Certificate in Special Education

Undergraduate elementary education candidates can begin working on 26 credits required to earn a certificate in Special Education. The PK-8 Special Education certification program requires candidates to complete courses in Education, Psychology and Special Education. All courses required for certification must be completed with a grade of C or better prior to entering clinical practice.

This page is not a part of the official [Penn State University Bulletin](#).

Courses Overview

The Elementary Education program prepares students to enter the teaching profession ready to thrive. Coursework is rooted in researched best practices for teaching and learning, and incorporates some of the newest trends in the field of education.

For example, the academic plan includes “Basic Preparation for Teaching” (EDUC 302) and “Creative Arts” (EDUC 305). Students learn the basics of lesson planning and how the creative arts can be used to engage their learners in the lesson. In another semester, “Modern Elementary Science Education” (EDCI 454) teaches students how to stimulate scientific thinking in elementary and middle school. Students are hands on with the latest STEAM materials and concepts. During the fourth year, students dig into effective practices for helping learners with diverse needs succeed in their classroom in “Inclusive Practices in General Education Classrooms” (EDUC 303).

All courses are taught by former public school teachers, specialists, and administrators. Instructors regularly present at and attend state, national, and international conferences. Faculty stay relevant by researching in local schools and publishing their work in scholarly journals and practitioner magazines.

The campus courses are balanced by strategic field experiences. This program provides students with an extensive amount of time in the classroom with real children and adolescents. Students spend a significant amount of time in PreK-Grade 8 classrooms every semester upon entry to the major. Campus classes are scheduled two or three days per week, and one to three days per week are spent in a local field placement, as arranged by the department each semester.

Undergraduate Admissions Requirements

Minimum high school course requirements for admission to baccalaureate (four-year) degree programs are listed below. Keep in mind that specific programs may have additional requirements or recommendations.

English

Four units, including one unit each in composition and literature, are required.

Social Studies/Art/Humanities

Three units in any combination of social studies, arts, and humanities are required.

World Language

Two units in a single world language other than English are required. However, a student may be admitted with fewer than two units in a world language other than English, but must correct this deficiency by the time s/he earns 60 credits or graduates from Penn State, whichever comes first. This deficiency may be corrected by passing one three- or four-credit college level world language course or by demonstrating proficiency equivalent to two units of high school world language study.

Either a third unit in the same language or an additional unit in a second world language other than English is recommended.

Science

Three units of science are required. Preparation in chemistry and physics is recommended but not required for our Science and Engineering/Engineering Technology programs

Math

Three units of mathematics are required (four are recommended), selected from any combination of algebra, geometry, and trigonometry. Some programs have additional mathematics requirements. Our Business, Engineering/Engineering Technology, and Science programs require one-half unit of trigonometry or higher level math within the required three units

Penn State requires proof of graduation or a GED for admission to four-year degree programs.

*In most high school curricula, one unit = one year.

Visit Undergraduate Admissions: Admissions Requirements for more information (<http://goo.gl/eVGAMB>)