

Elementary/Middle Education (K-9) and Special Education (K-12) Major - Bachelor of Science (BS)

Teachers have a positive and profound impact on future generations unlike any other profession. The **Elementary/Middle Education and Special Education (EME/SPE) Program** prepares educators and future leaders of our global society to teach the core subjects (literacy, math, science, and social studies) to kindergarten through grade 9 learners and kindergarten through grade 12 learners who have identified special education needs. Future teachers in this program will be equipped with the skills to understand, assess, and support students with different needs in general education classrooms. EME/SPE teacher candidates will learn to reach all students with relevant curriculum, utilizing strategies that are developmentally appropriate for each age. We collaborate with public school partners to provide multiple practical experiences in inclusive classrooms and specialized settings where our teacher candidates learn to differentiate teaching approaches with the end goal of honoring the individuality of all students. Graduates of this program are confident, reflective practitioners who value academically rigorous teaching for all and who continuously improve their skills in response to best practices.

Major requirements

Completion of the Elementary/Middle Education and Special Education Program and associated benchmark assessments (<http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/education/#SOE-program-requirements>) will lead to endorsement for the following Wisconsin teaching licenses:

- Elementary and Middle School, grades K-9 (2088) and
- Cross-Categorical Special Education, grades K-12 (2081).

Students in all teacher education programs must satisfy the School of Education (SOE) core requirements (<https://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/education/#SOE-core>).

Students in all teacher education programs must be admitted to the School of Education (<https://www.uwlax.edu/soe/undergrad/admission-to-soe/>) to complete their program requirements and be eligible for endorsement for the appropriate teaching license(s). Students majoring in elementary/middle education (grades K-9) and special education (grades K-12) must meet specific program admission criteria (<https://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/education/#admission>).

Retention and advancement

Teacher candidates may be retained in their teacher education program provided they fulfill the conditions described in the SOE Retention Policy (<http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/education/#retention>). Students must complete all course requirements and other benchmarks prior to student teaching as described in the Student Teaching and Internship Policy (<http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/education/#student-teaching>). Additional SOE program requirements, including the culminating assessment of pedagogical knowledge, are described

on the SOE catalog page (<http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/education/>).

All courses required in the Elementary/Middle Education and Special Education Program with EDS, SPE, and TSL prefixes must be passed with a minimum grade of "C" or better.

Curriculum

The Elementary/Middle Education and Special Education Program aligned with Wisconsin Teaching Standards (WTS), the national CAEP (elementary) and AMLE (middle-level) Standards, and the CEC Special Education Professional Preparation Standards.

Required general education courses (26 credits)

Besides the courses specified below, elementary/middle education and special education majors must satisfy additional general education requirements (<http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/generaleducation/#generaleducationrequirements>). The General Education Program requires a minimum of 41 credits.

Code	Title	Credits
EDS 203	Foundations of Education ^{1, 2, 3}	3
EDS 206	Society and Schools ^{1, 2, 4}	3
MTH 115	Mathematics for Early Childhood and Elementary Teachers I ⁵	2
MTH 116	Mathematics for Early Childhood and Elementary Teachers II ⁵	2
HIS 110	World History ⁶	3
GEO 200	Conservation of Global Environments ⁷	3
ART 302	Visual Language in the Global Classroom ⁸	3
Physical science course from Gen Ed Experiential Science list (PHY 106 is recommended) ⁹		4
English literature course from Gen Ed The Stories We Tell list ¹⁰		3
Total Credits		26

Recommended general education course

Code	Title	Credits
PH 207	Youth Health Issues ¹¹	3

¹ Must pass all EDS, SPE, and TSL courses with a grade of "C" or better.

² Satisfies an SOE core requirement.

³ Counts toward General Education Program requirement: Social and Behavioral Studies (GEN ED 1009).

⁴ Counts toward General Education Program requirement: Ethnic Diversity (GED ED 1005).

⁵ Counts toward General Education Program requirement: Quantitative Reasoning (GEN ED 1004).

⁶ Counts toward General Education Program requirement: The Past That Defines Us (GEN ED 1011).

⁷ Counts toward General Education Program requirement: The Planet That Sustains Us (GEN ED 1012).

⁸ Counts toward General Education Program requirement: Arts and Aesthetics (GEN ED 1007).

⁹ Counts toward General Education Program requirement: Experiential Science (GEN ED 1008).

¹⁰ Counts toward General Education Program requirement: The Stories We Tell (GEN ED 1010).

¹¹ Counts toward General Education Program requirement: Mind & Body (GEN ED 1006).

Additional required content courses (17 credits)

Elementary/middle education and special education majors must complete the following additional content courses to meet accreditation standards and/or WI statutory requirements. Some courses are also in the General Education Program.

Code	Title	Credits
PSY 212	Lifespan Development ²	3
MTH 215	Mathematics for Middle School Teachers I	2
MTH 216	Mathematics for Middle School Teachers II	2
TSL 250	Educating Multilingual Learners ¹	3
Biological science course from Gen Ed Experiential Science list		4
Select one of the following:		3
POL 101	American National Government	
POL 102	State and Local Government	
Total Credits		17

Courses not requiring admission to the School of Education (18 credits)¹

Code	Title	Credits
EDS 308	Foundations of Literacy	3
EDS 309	Global Perspectives in Education ¹²	3
EDS 311	Curriculum and Pedagogy: Elementary/Middle Education	3
EDS 318	Literacy Methods I	3
SPE 200	Foundations of Special Education ²	3
SPE 340	Collaborative Partnerships and Transitions for Students with Disabilities	3
Total Credits		18

Courses requiring admission to the School of Education (50-51 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
Field I block courses (must be taken concurrently) ^{1, 2}		
EDS 402	Field Experience I: Elementary Level	3
EDS 413	Social Studies Methods	3
EDS 418	Literacy Methods II	3
Field II block courses (must be taken concurrently) ¹		
EDS 446	Field Experience II: Middle Level ²	3
EDS 421	Science Methods ²	3
EDS 422	Mathematics Methods ²	3
EDS 452	Philosophy and Curriculum for Young Adolescent Learners	3
Special education courses ¹		
SPE 300	Designing Sustainable Inclusive Classrooms	3
SPE 420	Advanced Literacy and Math Practices for K-12 Students with Persistent Academic Challenges	3
SPE 452	Assessment in Special Education	3
Special education field block courses (must be taken concurrently) ^{1 8-9}		
Select one of the following options:		
Option A: Local Experience (9 credits)		
SPE 424	Advanced Practices for Students with Challenging Behaviors	
SPE 455	Methods in Cross-Categorical Special Education (K-12)	
SPE 460	Field Experience in Special Education (K-12)	

Option B: Luxembourg Experience (8 credits) ¹³

SPE 425	Advanced Practices for Students with Challenging Behaviors in an International Setting	
SPE 435	Methods in Cross-Categorical Special Education in an International Setting	
SPE 465	Field Experience in Special Education in an International Setting	
Student teaching semester		
Demonstrate content knowledge through benchmark assessment prior to student teaching ¹⁴		
EDS 492	Student Teaching Seminar ²	1
A combination of the following: ²		11
EDS 491	Student Teaching: Elementary/Middle Education (K-9)	
EDS 497	Student Teaching: Kindergarten through Grade 12 (K-12)	
EDS 495	Teaching Internship	
Total Credits		50-51

¹² Counts toward General Education Program requirement: The Cultures of Our World (GEN ED 1013).

¹³ This experience occurs during the summer on-site in Luxembourg. Students are responsible for the costs associated with the study abroad experience.

¹⁴ Must complete all course requirements and other benchmarks prior to student teaching. See SOE's benchmark assessments (<https://www.uwlax.edu/soe/undergrad/benchmark-assessments/>) website for information about these assessments. For more information on student teaching, please see the Student Teaching and Internship Policy (<http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/education/#student-teaching>).

Additional teacher education requirements are listed on the School of Education (<https://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/education/>) catalog page.

Degree requirements

All teacher education students must complete the general education, School of Education, major/minor, and university degree requirements in order to qualify for a degree. The easiest way to track all of these requirements is to refer to the Advisement Report (AR) found in the Student Information System (WINGS) Student Center. All enrolled students have access to the AR.

- General education (<https://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/generaleducation/>)
- School of Education requirements (<https://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/education/>)
- Baccalaureate degree requirements (p. 2)

Baccalaureate degree requirements

Candidates for the Bachelor of Arts or the Bachelor of Science degrees must accomplish the following:

1. Fulfill the general education requirements.
2. Complete at least one ethnic studies (diversity) course.
3. Complete the courses prescribed by the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee for the degree desired in the respective school or college.

4. Earn a minimum of 120 semester credits with at least a 2.00 cumulative GPA.^{1,2}
5. At least 40 credits must be earned in 300/400 level courses. Transfer courses earned or transferred at the 300/400 level apply to this requirement.
6. Complete major and minor requirements with at least a 2.00 GPA^{1,2} in each major and minor (and concentration or emphasis, if selected).
7. A minimum of 30 semester credits in residence at UWL is required for graduation. (See undergraduate resident requirement (<https://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/academicpolicies/graduation/#undergraduate-residence-requirement>).)
8. Submit an application for graduation via the "Submit Intent to Graduate" link in the WINGS Student Center as soon as the student has registered for his or her final semester or summer term in residence. December and winter intersession graduates should apply by May 1. May and summer graduates should apply by December 1.

¹ Grade point average requirements for some programs will be considerably higher than 2.00. Re-entering students may be required to earn credits in excess of the 120 needed for graduation in any curriculum in order to replace credits earned in courses in which the content has changed substantially in recent years. Each case will be judged on its own merit.

² The grade point average recorded at the time the degree is awarded will not be affected by future enrollment.

No degree will be awarded unless all requirements are fulfilled and recorded within 30 days after the official ending date of each term.

Sample degree plan

Below is a sample degree plan that can be used as a guide to identify courses required to fulfill the major and other requirements needed for degree completion. A student's actual degree plan may differ depending on the course of study selected (second major, minor, etc.). Also, this sample plan assumes readiness for each course and/or major plan, and some courses may not be offered every term. Review the course descriptions or the class timetable (<http://www.uwlax.edu/records/registration/>) for course offering information.

The sample degree plans represented in this catalog are intended for first-year students entering UWL in the fall term. Students should use the Advisement Report (AR) in WINGS (<https://wings.uwlax.edu>) and work closely with their faculty advisor(s) and college dean's office to ensure declaration and completion of all requirements in a timely manner.

General Education Program

The general education curriculum (Gen Ed) is the common educational experience for all undergraduates at UWL. Sample degree plans include Gen Ed placeholders to ensure completion of the general education requirements. Courses may be rearranged to fit the needs or recommendations of the student's program of study. Gen Ed courses may be taken during winter term (January between the semesters) and summer to reduce the course load during regular terms (fall and spring). Students should consult with their advisor and/or the college academic services director in their college/school for assistance with course and schedule planning. Refer to the general education requirements (<https://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/generaleducation/>) for more specific details.

At least 40 credits of the 120 credits required must be earned at the 300/400-level.

Note: New students and transfer students with less than 12 credits earned are required to take FYS 100 First-Year Seminar (3 cr.) during one of their first two semesters at UWL.

This sample degree plan does not establish a contractual agreement. It identifies the minimum requirements a student must successfully complete, to qualify for a degree, in a format intended to assist the student in planning their academic career. Actual degree plans may differ.

Year 1

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
CST 110 (Gen Ed 1003 Spoken Literacy)	3	ENG 110 (Gen Ed 1002 Written Literacy)	3
EDS 203 (Gen Ed 1009 Social and Behavioral Studies)	3	EDS 206 (Gen Ed 1005 Ethnic Diversity)	3
MTH 115 (Gen Ed 1004 Quantitative Reasoning)	2	MTH 116 (Gen Ed 1004 Quantitative Reasoning)	2
FYS 100 (Gen Ed 1001 First-Year Seminar)	3	GEO 200 (Gen Ed 1012 Planet That Sustains Us)	3
HIS 110 (Gen Ed 1011 Past That Define Us)	3	Gen Ed 1010 Stories We Tell (English literature)	3
POL 101 or 102	3	Gen Ed 1006 Mind and Body ¹	3
	17		17

Year 2

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
EDS 308	3	EDS 318	3
EDS 311	3	EDS 309 (Gen Ed 1013 Cultures of Our World)	3
PSY 212	3	MTH 216	2
Biological Science (select from Gen Ed 1008 Experiential Science list)	4	TSL 250	3
MTH 215	2	Physical Science (Gen Ed 1008 Experiential Science) ²	4
SPE 200	3	Apply for Field Experience I ³	
		Apply for admission to School of Education ⁴	
	18		15

Year 3

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
SPE 300	3	SPE 340	3
EDS 402	3	SPE 424	3
EDS 413	3	SPE 452	3
EDS 418	3	SPE 455	3
ART 302 (Gen Ed 1007 Arts and Aesthetics)	3	SPE 460	3
Apply for Special Education Field Experience ³		Apply for Field Experience II ³	
		Apply for Student Teaching ⁵	
	15		15

Year 4

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
EDS 421	3	All course requirements and other benchmarks must be completed prior to student teaching. ⁶	
EDS 422	3	EDS 492	1
EDS 452	3	EDS 491	6
EDS 446	3	EDS 497	5

Gen Ed 1007 Arts and Aesthetics	1	
SPE 420	3	
	16	12

Total Credits: 125

¹ PH 207 Youth Health Issues (3 cr.) is recommended.

² PHY 106 Physical Science for Educators (4 cr.) is recommended.

³ Students applying for field and student teaching placements will be asked to disclose any criminal charges (<https://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/education/#disclosure-past-offenses>).

⁴ See the SOE admissions website (<https://www.uwlax.edu/soe/undergrad/admission-to-soe/>) for complete admission and application details. Students will be required to complete a criminal background check (<https://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/education/#criminal-background-check>) at the time of application for admission.

⁵ Students must apply for student teaching (<https://www.uwlax.edu/soe/field-and-student-teaching-experience/for-teacher-candidates/>) through the Office of Field Experience one year prior to student teaching semester.

⁶ For more information, please see the Student Teaching and Internship Policy (<https://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/education/#student-teaching>).