College of Education

Dean
  • Daniel L. Clay
Associate Dean for Faculty and Academic Affairs
  • Pamela M. Wesely
Associate Dean for Research
  • Saba R. Ali
Associate Dean for Teacher Education and Student Services
  • Mark A. McDermott
Undergraduate major: BA
Undergraduate minors: educational psychology; human relations
Graduate degrees: MA; MAT; MS; EdS; EdD; PhD
Graduate certificates: applied behavior analysis; institutional research and effectiveness; K-12 equity and inclusion; online teaching; talent development
Website: https://education.uiowa.edu/

TEP/Licensure

Teacher Education Programs (TEP) and Student Teaching

The College of Education offers a Teacher Education Program (TEP) that includes preparation for teaching in elementary education (teaching kindergarten through grade 6 or grade 8); and secondary education (teaching one or more subjects in grades 5 through 12). Secondary teacher education is offered in art education, English education, mathematics education, music education, science education, social studies education, and world language education. Two secondary education programs, art education and music education, are preparation for teaching kindergarten through grade 12. Preparation for special education teaching is offered primarily as a master's degree program, but undergraduate students in the elementary education major may complete a special education endorsement for teaching elementary school students with mild or moderate disabilities. In cooperation with the School of Library and Information Science, the college offers graduate-level preparation for school teacher librarians. Preparation is available for teaching additional subjects; see "Added Endorsements" below.

The College of Education awards Bachelor of Arts undergraduate majors in elementary education and seven other majors. Majors in art education, English education, mathematics education, music education, science education, social studies education, and world language education require a corequisite content major from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. See the Department of Teaching and Learning section of the catalog for details about these majors. The majors require admission to the TEP.

Individuals with a previous bachelor's degree or a more advanced degree also may complete a TEP. See "Graduate and Postbaccalaureate Admission to TEP" below and the Department of Teaching and Learning section of the catalog.

The Office of Student Services provides information on TEP; offers assistance with admission, student field experiences, and teacher licensure/certification; and serves as a liaison with other university units and external agencies. For more information, visit the Office of Student Services website.

Admission to the Teacher Education Program

Admission to a TEP is required in order to register for most TEP courses, to participate in field experiences/practicums, and to student teach.

Elementary Education

First-year undergraduate applicants to the bachelor of arts major in elementary education are admitted to the major and the College of Education upon acceptance to the University of Iowa. These students complete TEP application requirements as a part of their first two semesters of coursework. Transfer students from outside the University of Iowa who wish to pursue the elementary education major or current University of Iowa students who wish to change their major to elementary education should contact the Office of Student Services for TEP application requirements and procedures.

Secondary and K-12 Teacher Education Programs

Undergraduate applicants to the University of Iowa who wish to become teachers in secondary education apply for a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences major in the subject they would like to teach. They also may indicate secondary education interest on their application.

Requirements for admission to the TEP include admission to the University of Iowa, a minimum of 30 s.h. of college credit, and a preadmission school field experience. Some programs have additional requirements. Complete application requirements and procedures can be found on the Office of Student Services website. TEP applications are submitted through a web application, Tk20 (Watermark).

For secondary and K-12 programs, admission to the TEP is selective and is based on a faculty review of academic achievement as reflected in grade-point average (GPA), aptitude as reflected by recommendations and personal statements, and the ability of the given program area to provide quality instruction and clinical and field experiences. Meeting the minimum criteria does not ensure program admission.

Students are encouraged to submit complete applications for timely advising and registration by the priority application deadlines of March 1 for the fall semester or Oct. 1 for the spring semester. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until Dec. 1 for the spring semester or May 1 for the fall semester. Some program areas may reach capacity for acceptance before the final deadlines. Applicants are notified of admission decisions by email following faculty review.

Direct Admission to Music Education

The College of Education offers early admission into the K-12 music education TEP. First-year students who, upon graduation from high school, have a high school GPA of 3.00 or higher and have been accepted into a music studio are directly admitted into the K-12 music education TEP. This admission is conditional until the minimum admission requirements are complete. The requirements include...
admission to the School of Music, completion of an essay of 500 words or less on why the applicant wishes to be a music teacher, and completion of a 10-hour preadmission school field experience.

**Graduate and Postbaccalaureate Admission to the TEP**

Students with a previous bachelor’s degree or more advanced degree may be admitted to a TEP as graduate or undergraduate students, and may have the option to pursue an additional undergraduate or graduate degree or to pursue the TEP as a nondegree student. See the Department of Teaching and Learning for degree program options. Students must apply to the TEP through the web application, Tk20 (Watermark), and to the University of Iowa through the Office of Admissions. Application information is available from the Office of Student Services. Graduate applicants must be eligible for admission to the Graduate College, which requires a GPA of at least 3.00 in all previous college coursework. See the Graduate Admissions website. Undergraduate applicants must meet the general requirements for undergraduate admission to the University of Iowa; see the Undergraduate Admissions website.

**TEP Academic and Professional Standards**

Students in the TEP must meet GPA requirements and maintain appropriate professional dispositions each semester. Students who do not meet the requirements are placed on probation; those who fail to meet the requirements in a successive semester may be removed from the TEP or denied admission to student teaching. For more information on standards and policies, consult the Office of Student Services.

**InTASC Standards-Based Assessments**

Once admitted to the TEP, progress toward meeting professional standards is documented on Tk20 (Watermark), a web-based assessment system. Throughout the program, students submit assignments designated by their respective program area for standards-based scoring on rubrics in common across all program areas.

**Teacher Leader Certificate Professional Development Program**

Teachers from the University of Iowa are distinguished by their preparation with world-class faculty researchers and clinical practitioners and a one-of-a-kind professional development program that highlights contemporary issues in 21st-century education, the Teacher Leader Certificate. The Teacher Leader Certificate is not a teaching license or a university recognition but it supplements the TEP courses, practicums, and student teaching requirements with a series of competency and experiences offered through innovative and interactive workshops and 10 hours of volunteer work in an education setting. All TEP students are required to complete the requirements of the certificate prior to their student teaching semester.

The Teacher Leader Certificate is supported by the Baker Teacher Leader Center (Baker TLC). The Baker TLC also supports the College of Education’s Global Education Initiatives, Student to Teacher Pathway Programs, and provides professional development programs for in-service teachers and other school professionals.

**Student Teaching**

The final phase of the TEP is the professional semester, devoted to supervised student teaching and directed observation in a variety of situations. All coursework in education, for the major, and for the degree must be completed before the student teaching semester. The student teaching semester is a full-time, all-day experience with a full registration, typically a 15 s.h. enrollment. Student teachers are expected to follow the calendar of the district in which they are placed; breaks may not align with the University of Iowa semester calendar. Transfer credit may not be used to satisfy the student teaching requirement.

Faculty members, professional staff, and advanced graduate students who are experienced teachers serve as supervisors. Periodic seminars provide for discussion and evaluation of student teacher experiences.

To be admitted to the student teaching semester, students submit their application to the Office of Student Services. Student teaching applications are due the calendar year before the student teaching semester: by Nov. 15 for student teaching the following fall semester and by April 15 for student teaching the following spring semester.

Admission to student teaching requires faculty approval based on grade-point average requirements and appropriate professional dispositions. For more information, contact the Office of Student Services.

**Placement Options**

Student teaching placements typically are in schools within a 60–70 mile radius of Iowa City, referred to as local placements. Placements also may be available in some school districts in other parts of Iowa, the Midwest region, urban districts in other parts of the United States, and international settings. These placements are referred to as special sites. Special site placements have higher grade-point average requirements and expectations for appropriate professional dispositions.

International student teaching experiences are available primarily through Global Gateway for Teachers, an Indiana University Program working in collaboration with the University of Iowa. International sites vary, depending on available placements and international conditions, but have included Australia, China, Costa Rica, Ecuador, England and Wales, Greece, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Russian Federation, Scotland, Spain, and Tanzania. In most locations, students are assisted with housing by an on-site coordinator.

International assignments are for eight weeks. Students complete an eight-week assignment in a local placement or another special site placement followed by an eight-week assignment in an international placement. Secondary education students in some program areas (for instance, English education) are required to complete a full semester of student teaching in the United States before student teaching at an international site.

For more information about international student teaching options, see Student Teaching and Classroom Experience on the College of Education website.

**Course Substitutions**

Students who have completed courses that they wish to substitute for program requirements should consult with their advisors.
Community college human relations courses are not accepted as substitutes for EPLS:4180 Human Relations for the Classroom Teacher.

Teacher Licensure/Certification

The Iowa Board of Educational Examiners issues teacher, support service, and administrator licenses on the recommendation of Iowa colleges and universities whose programs have been approved by the Iowa Department of Education. All University of Iowa preparation programs have Iowa Department of Education approval.

Licensure/certification requirements across the nation are subject to change. Students who plan to seek employment in a state other than Iowa should make every effort to be informed about current requirements in that state. Generally, students who apply out-of-state should first secure Iowa licensure.

To be recommended by the University of Iowa, applicants must complete all requirements of the appropriate approved program. A minimum of 20 s.h. of coursework applied to meet program requirements must be earned at the University of Iowa.

In the State of Iowa, applicants must be at least 21 years old to be granted a teaching license. The Iowa Board of Educational Examiners requires a national criminal history background check, an Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation background check, and registries and records check for all new applicants for Iowa licensure. Disqualifying criminal convictions and founded child abuse are set out in Iowa Code 272.2 and Iowa Administrative Code 282-25.

The College of Education Office of Student Services provides instructions on application for licenses, fingerprinting procedures, and licensure/certification assistance to all students completing approved programs offered by the college. It also provides assistance to in-service teachers and other school professionals who are interested in adding endorsements to their Iowa license based on completion of State of Iowa minimum licensure requirements.

Added Endorsements

Current TEP students and in-service teachers may prepare for teaching additional subjects through added endorsement programs and courses.

Most added endorsements for kindergarten through 8th grade (K-8) are intended for TEP students and in-service teachers in elementary education. See the BA in elementary education for these added endorsements. Other endorsements, including most secondary (grades 5-12) endorsements for which the University of Iowa offers a TEP, also can be available to elementary, secondary, or K-12 TEP students and teachers as added endorsements.

Preparation is offered for these added endorsements:

- Grades 5-8 middle school (language arts, mathematics, science, and/or social studies)
- Grades 5-12 reading
- K-12 athletic coach
- K-12 dyslexia specialist
- K-12 English as a second language (ESL)
- PK-12 talented and gifted

For additional information contact an academic advisor or licensure staff in the Office of Student Services.