Teacher Education Programs (TEP) and Student Teaching

The College of Education offers a Teacher Education Program (TEP) that includes preparation for teaching in elementary, secondary, or K-12 education. It offers teacher preparation in art education, elementary education, English education, mathematics education, music education, science education, social studies education, and world language education. 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.

In addition, the college offers specialized programs in additional elementary, secondary, middle school, and K-12 teaching areas. 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 TEPs" below and the Department of Teaching and Learning section of the Catalog.

The Office of Student Services provides information on TEPs; 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's website.

Undergraduate Admission to TEPs

Undergraduate applicants to the University of Iowa who wish to become teachers may indicate their interest in the elementary education major or a secondary-level Teacher Education Program on their application for admission.

Application materials for TEPs are available on the office's website and are filed through the web application, Tk20 (Watermark).

Acceptance to a TEP is prerequisite to registration for most Teacher Education Program undergraduate courses.

Application Deadlines

Students must be admitted to the TEP in order to register for certain courses, to participate in field experiences/practicums, and to student teach. The priority admission deadline for fall semester is March 1, with applications accepted on a rolling basis until May 1. The priority admission deadline for spring semester is October 1, with applications accepted on a rolling basis until December 1. The ideal time to apply is by the priority deadline, so that students who are admitted to the program can be cleared for advising and registration in a timely manner. Applications are only considered by the faculty when all requirements are complete. Faculty members in each program area review and select applicants to be admitted to their program. Some program areas may reach capacity for acceptance before the final deadlines. Applicants are notified of admission decisions by email following faculty review.

General Requirements

Admission to TEPs is selective. Admission requirements may vary by program area. In order to be considered for admission to a TEP, an undergraduate student must satisfy the following requirements: admission to the University of Iowa, a minimum amount of credit for college-level work, and a predilection for music education TEP. First-year students who, upon graduation from high school, have a high school g.p.a. of 3.00 or higher and have been accepted into a music studio section of the Catalog.

Application materials and current minimum application requirements are available on the Office of Student Services website.

Review of Applications

TEP admission is based on a faculty review of all application components. Meeting the minimum criteria does not ensure program admission. Selection is determined by academic achievement as reflected in grade-point average, 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.

Direct Admissions Policy

The College of Education offers direct admission into the music education TEP. First-year students who, upon graduation from high school, have a high school g.p.a. of 3.00 or higher and have been accepted into a music studio will be 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 in 500 words or less on why the applicant wishes to be a music teacher, and completion of the 10-hour predilection for music education TEP field experience verification form.
Graduate and Postbaccalaureate Admission to TEPs

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 g.p.a. 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 Standards and Policies

Students in the TEP must meet grade-point average requirements 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, teacher candidates’ progress toward meeting professional standards is documented on Tk20 (Watermark), a web-based assessment system. Students apply to the TEP through the system, and throughout the program submit assignments designated by their respective program area for standards-based scoring on rubrics in common across all program areas.

Teacher Leader 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. All requirements must be completed prior to student teaching. All teacher education students are required to participate.

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. The student teaching semester is a full-time, all-day, experience. Faculty members, professional staff, and advanced graduate students who are experienced teachers serve as supervisors.

Periodic seminars provide for discussion and evaluation of student teachers’ experiences. Transfer credit may not be used to satisfy the student teaching requirement.

To be admitted to the student teaching semester, students must submit a separate application to the Office of Student Services in the College of Education. All coursework in education, for the major, and for the degree must be completed before the student teaching semester. Applications are submitted during the calendar year before the student teaching semester. The deadline is November 15 for students planning to student teach the following fall semester and April 15 for students planning to student teach the following spring semester.

Admission to student teaching requires program area faculty approval as well as verification of satisfactory progress in meeting both College of Education professionalism standards and program area standards, which are set at the time of admission to the TEP. In some programs, standards are higher than the college’s required g.p.a. of at least 2.70. Students should consult with their advisors regarding specific requirements for the program areas. 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. Students who receive faculty approval, based on academic and professional criteria, may have options to student teach in other locations, referred to as special sites. Special sites are schools in other parts of Iowa, the Midwest region, and in select urban districts in other parts of the United States, that have ongoing contracts with the College of Education for placement of student teachers. For more information on student teaching placement options, see Student Teaching and Classroom Experience on the College of Education website.

International Student Teaching

International student teaching experiences are available primarily through Global Gateway for Teachers, an Indiana University Program working in collaboration with the University of Iowa. Sites include Australia, China, Costa Rica, Ecuador, England and Wales, Greece, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Russian Federation, Scotland, Spain, and Tanzania.

Interested students must meet the regular requirements for student teaching and must have the approval of their advisor and the appropriate program coordinator. In most locations, students are assisted with housing by the on-site coordinator.

International assignments are for eight weeks. Students complete an eight-week assignment in a stateside 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 opportunities, contact the Office of Student Services.

Program Completion Assessment

As a requirement for completion of an approved TEP for initial teaching licensure, the state of Iowa requires a program completion assessment. University of Iowa student teachers must pass the edTPA assessment of their program as a requirement for program completion.

Course Substitutions

Students who have completed courses that they wish to substitute for program requirements should consult with their advisors.

All University of Iowa students seeking an Iowa teaching license must complete EPLS:4180 Human Relations for the Classroom Teacher and EDTL:4900 Foundations of Special
Education, or approved substitutes. Human relations courses offered through community colleges are not accepted.

**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 checks for all new applicants for Iowa licensure. Disqualifying criminal convictions and founded child abuse are set out Iowa Code 272.2 and Iowa Administrative Code 282-11.35, and in the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners Ethics Brochure.

The College of Education Office of Student Services provides Iowa application forms, 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 B.A. 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.