

# EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

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The Early Childhood/Elementary and Special Education Department (ESEE) provides undergraduate and graduate programs for students seeking preparation to work with young children in the community, agencies, and preK-12 school settings. The goal of the teacher education programs is to prepare competent, compassionate, collaborative, and committed leaders. The teacher education programs are approved by the Virginia Department of Education and accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) now the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). The early childhood, elementary, and special education programs provide instruction, field experiences, and clinical practices that develop excellence in teaching and skills to serve diversified populations.

The degree and teacher certification endorsement programs in the Department of Early Childhood/Elementary and Special Education are:

- Bachelor Science Education in Elementary Education K-6
- Bachelor of Science Education in Special Education K-12
- Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Development – Child Care Non-teaching Option (NCOP)

## Licensure and Baccalaureate Degree Requirements

Students interested in teaching early childhood, elementary, or special education must pursue a degree in psychology or interdisciplinary studies and earn full licensure to teach in the desired teaching discipline. Students who possess an undergraduate degree and desire to earn a teaching license may apply to Norfolk State University as a non-degree seeking student. Admission to Norfolk State University does not guarantee admission to the teacher education program.

The licensure and/or degree requirements are under constant revisions due to either, the Commonwealth of Virginia's regulations, Norfolk State University's requirements, or regional or national accreditation standards. Advisors and the School of Education webpage will inform students of the most current information resulting from changes by any of the agencies. Current guidelines and regulations supersede information in this catalog.

### Tk20 Assessment System Guidelines

All students enrolled in a degree program and seeking teacher licensure are to have access to the web-based portfolio assessment system upon enrolling in the first education course. Candidates are to maintain all field experience, clinical practice, and course assessment data as requested by instructors in the Tk20 system. Information about the use of Tk20 is found on the Center for Professional Development webpage at <https://www.nsu.edu/education/cpd/index> (<https://www.nsu.edu/education/cpd/index/>).

### General Education Licensure Requirements

To be eligible for the early childhood preK-3, elementary education preK-6, or special education-general curriculum K-12 teaching license, students must have an undergraduate degree in liberal arts and sciences (or equivalent) from a regionally accredited institution. The candidate for the non-degree teaching license certification endorsement only, who has a degree in a liberal arts or science area, must fulfill the following semester-hour requirements:

1. English (must include composition, oral communication, and literature): 12 semester hours;
2. Mathematics: 12 semester hours;
3. Science (including a laboratory course): 8 semester hours in at least two science disciplines;
4. History (must include American history): 9 semester hours;
5. Social science (must include geography and economics): 6 semester hours; and
6. Arts and humanities: 6 semester hours.

### Assessment Requirements for Teachers

To satisfy the state of Virginia's testing requirements for the initial licensure programs, students must pass Praxis II (if applicable to program), the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA), and the Reading for Virginia Educators (RVE).

Praxis II is a content knowledge exam for teachers and must be passed before program completion, if applicable to your program.

VCLA is a test of communication, reading, and writing skills. Must be passed for admission to the program.

RVE is a test of students' knowledge of reading instruction. Must be passed for admission to the program, if applicable.

You may see the assessment requirements for Virginia licensure at [http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/licensure/prof\\_teacher\\_assessment.pdf](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/licensure/prof_teacher_assessment.pdf)

Students are responsible for providing copies of the test results to the program advisor for admission to teacher education and copies of all assessments are included in the student teaching application packet. When reporting results for Praxis II, students must submit a paper copy of the "Examinee Score Report." The Examinee Score Report is sent to the student by ETS, and it provides detailed score information that the Office of Clinical Experiences and Student Services (OCESS) is required to collect. (This information is not available on the "Designated Institution Score Report" sent to Norfolk State by ETS.) Information about test registration is available on the Office of Clinical Experiences and Student Services' (OCESS) webpage.

### Admission to Teacher Education Guidelines

Students applying for admission to the teacher education program must have a minimum 3.0 grade point average with no grade below a "C" and must have passed VCLA exam and RVE, if applicable. Applicants are required to complete a portfolio that contains two letters of recommendation, a copy of their philosophy of education, an update on any disposition documents on file, as well as participate in an interview, and meet any other requirements as outlined in the guidelines provided at Office of Clinical Experiences and Student Services' (OCESS) webpage <https://www.nsu.edu/education/cpd/index> (<https://www.nsu.edu/education/cpd/index/>).

Students are to be admitted to teacher education prior to enrolling in any professional education observation participation course. Students must continue to maintain a 3.0 GPA and earn at least a grade of "C" for continuance in the teacher education program.

### **Observation and Observation Participation Field Placements and Clinical Practice**

The introductory course, Foundations of Education has an observation experience that is designed to help students decide if teaching is the right choice for them. All methods of teaching courses have an observation participation requirement that must be met in an appropriate, licensed setting. Students are required to have current negative TB test results and a current background verification form in order to request field experience placements. Students must pass VCLA and meet the requirements for admission to teacher education before participating in an observation-participation field experience. A provisionally licensed teacher may participate in observation participation if s/he has a letter from the Virginia Department of Education listing the course as a needed requirement and has passing VCLA scores.

### **Teacher Education Assessments and Applying to Student Teach or Complete the Practicum**

In order to student teach and obtain a Virginia teaching license, all teacher education students must attain passing scores on the appropriate teacher licensure assessments.

It is recommended that the VCLA be taken in the first semester of the freshman year and no later than the first semester of the sophomore year.

The RVE should be taken in the first semester of the freshman year and no later than the first semester of the sophomore year, if applicable. It is required for licensure.

Candidates must receive training in dyslexia and the recognition of child abuse and neglect and keep the certificate to submit with the student teaching and state licensure applications.

Candidates are required to pass the appropriate Praxis II specialty area assessment with scores established by the Virginia Department of Education.

Candidates are required to complete the Emergency First Aid, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Use of Automated External Defibrillators (AED) training. Documentation of training must be submitted to the Office of Clinical Experiences and Student Services (OCESS) before you begin your student teaching.

Obtain the application and due dates to student teach at the Office of Clinical Experiences and Student Services (OCESS) webpage. All coursework and other program requirements must be completed before beginning student teaching.

Prior to placements in practicum or internship, students are required to complete a universal background check, the Child Protective Service Central Registry Release of Information (032-02-1515/1), and a fingerprint check by the school division. Students may be liable for all costs incurred. Candidates must adhere to guidelines outlined in the field experience handbook and located at the Office of Clinical Experiences and Student Services' (OCESS) webpage.

## **Early Childhood, Elementary and Special Education Programs**

- Bachelor of Science Education in Elementary Education (<https://catalog.nsu.edu/undergraduate/education/early-childhood-elementary-special-education/psychology-ba-elementary-education-certification-endorsement-prek-6/>)
- Bachelor of Science Education in Special Education and Teaching (<https://catalog.nsu.edu/undergraduate/education/early-childhood-elementary-special-education/interdisciplinary-studies-bs-special-education-general-curriculum-k-12/>)
- Early Childhood Education, Child Care (Non-Teaching Certification Option), Concentration (<https://catalog.nsu.edu/undergraduate/education/early-childhood-elementary-special-education/early-childhood-bs-child-care-non-teaching/>)
- The certificate program in Paraprofessional Education is undergoing revisions.