Admission Requirements

Criteria vary, depending on the student’s undergraduate institution and GPA.

• Applicants who are alumni of WKU teacher preparation programs must submit a current, valid teaching certificate or Statement of Eligibility* for Elementary (Grades P-5).
• Applicants with undergraduate degrees from all other accredited universities will be admitted without a qualifying GRE score if they have a minimum 2.75 GPA for all previous coursework (undergraduate and graduate) and a valid teaching certificate for elementary education. A copy of the certificate must be submitted with the application.
• Applicants with undergraduate degrees from all other accredited universities with a GPA lower than 2.75 (undergraduate and graduate) must achieve a GAP (GRE score multiplied by the undergraduate GPA) score of 2200 or higher and a GRE Analytical Writing score of 3.5 or higher and have a valid teaching certificate for elementary education. A copy of the certificate must be submitted with the application.
• Applicants to the MAE program in Elementary Education must hold or be eligible to hold a teaching certificate at the elementary level OR have a valid elementary program on file with the Office of Teacher Services. (*Note: Conversion program must be completed prior to or simultaneously with the MAE.)

*Applicants whose certificates have expired may be admitted, but they may enroll for only six hours before they must apply to the EPSB for re-issued certificates. After completion of six hours, a student admitted with an expired certificate must submit a copy of the re-issued certificate before being allowed to register for any additional courses.

Program Requirements

The program is divided into two instructional components: (a) Professional Education, which provides advanced level pedagogy, leadership, and content related to Kentucky Teacher Standards and applicable to all P-12 teachers working in a wide gamut of developmental levels and content areas; and (b) Specialization, which directs the student into an individual program in content, pedagogy, and/or areas of professional growth consistent with the goals of each candidate.

Professional Education Component—10-16 hours

_TCHL 500_ – Foundations of Teacher Leadership (3 hours)

_TCHL 500 is a required course and is a prerequisite or corequisite to all other courses. There is no proficiency evaluation that can be substituted for this course. In_TCHL 500 students will complete an assessment process that will be used in determining which_TCHL core courses they must take. While enrolled in_TCHL 500, students will use several documents, including their KTIP assessments or in-kind examples, dispositions self-surveys, referrals from school personnel, and their respective School Improvement Plan, to develop with their respective program advisors individualized programs of study related to Kentucky Teacher Standards and professional goals. Each student’s program of study will include some or all of the TCHL courses, plus additional education-related or content courses. With the assistance of an assigned program advisor, TCHL 500 students will complete an official Form C and submit it to the Office of Graduate Studies._

_TCHL 530_ – Curriculum Development (3 hours)

_TCHL 559_ – Action Research Design (1 hour)

_TCHL 560_ – Action Research Capstone for Teacher Leaders (3 hours)

_TCHL 530, 559, & 560 are required for all students, and there are no proficiency evaluations that may be substituted for these courses._

_TCHL 545_ – Classroom Instructional Strategies (3 hours)

_TCHL 555_ – School and Classroom Assessment (3 hours)

_TCHL 545 and 555 are required for all students OR the student must pass proficiency evaluations for these courses._

Mid-Point Assessment Requirements

Students are expected to enroll in TCHL 500 at the beginning of their program and in TCHL 560 toward the end, and in general, students should complete the professional education core (the TCHL courses except TCHL 560) as early as possible. Students should consult with their advisors regarding the optimal sequence of course work to meet their professional goals. To ensure master’s candidates are proficient on Advanced Level Teacher Standards, it is recommended that a majority of the Critical Performances associated with the above TCHL courses be completed prior to the Specialization Component. Students must achieve an average of
3.0 on all Critical Performances and an average score of 3 on dispositions even though a candidate’s program of studies does not include the courses. Additional course work may be required based on the assessment results.

Specialization Component—15-21 hours
1. Advisor-approved Elementary Education content course - (3 hours)
2. Advisor-approved content-specific course - (3 hours)
3. Electives (9-15 hours): Advisor-approved courses selected from discipline in which student is certified or related courses relevant to the student’s professional needs and goals (TCHL 520 Principles of Action Research for Teacher Leaders, 3 hours). In place of the content electives, the student may substitute course work for endorsements (e.g., English as a Second Language, Gifted and Talented Education, Environmental Education, and Instructional Computer Technology or other approved endorsements) or for meeting prerequisites for Instructional Leader programs.

Elementary Education
1. ELED 505 - Advanced Mat & Meth in Math for ElemTeachers (3 hours)
2. ELED 506 - Seminar in Elementary School Science - (3 hours)
3. ELED 507 - Advanced Materials and Methods in Social Studies (3 hours)
4. ELED 570 - Workshop/Selected Topics (1-3 hours)
5. LTCT 524 - Reading in the Content Areas (3 hours)

Elementary Education Math Specialist Endorsement 15 hours
Pedagogy Requirements - 9 hours
1. ELED 571: Leadership, Math, and Technology Education (3 hours)
2. ELED 572: Math and Technology Methods for Diverse Learners (3 hours)
3. ELED 573: Math and Technology Assessment (3 hours)

Mathematics Content Requirements – 6 hours (selected with advisor approval)
1. MATH 411G: Problem Solving for Elementary and Middle Grades Teachers (3 hours)
2. MATH 507: Math for Elementary and Middle Grades Teachers (3 hours) and/or
3. MATH 508: Number Concepts for Elementary and Middle Grades Teachers (3 hours)

Restrictive Elective(s): (3-6 hours)
Students who completed MATH 411 as undergraduates must take both MATH 507 and 508.

Education Administration: Prerequisites for Principal Certification Program (All Grades)
1. EDAD 588 - Allocation and Use of Resources (3 hours)
2. EDAD 677 - Legal Issues for Prof Educators (3 hours)
3. EDAD 684 - Instructional Leadership (3 hours)

English as a Second Language Endorsement 25 hours
Required Program Core Courses (16 hours)
1. English 407G - Linguistic Analysis (3 hours)
2. English 408G - Sociolinguistics and Psycholinguistics (3 hours)
3. English 565 - Integrated TESL (3 hours)
4. English 566 - Teaching and Testing ESL Grammar (3 hours)
5. English 471G - TESL Practicum (4 hours)

Other Required Courses
1. 6 hours of one foreign language if not previously taken.
2. One of the following (or equivalent) if not taken at the undergraduate level: English 104: Introduction to Linguistics (3 hours), English 302: Language and Communication (3 hours), or English 304: English Language (3 hours)

Environmental Education Endorsement 12 hours
Required Courses 9 hours
1. ENVE 520 - Introduction to Environmental Education (3 hours)
2. ENVE 580 - Instructional Strategies in Environmental Education (3 hours)

Elective Courses 3 hours
1. ENVE 585 - Special Topics in Environmental Education (3 hours)
2. EDU 507/GEOG 507 - Geographic Concepts and Skills for Teachers (3 hours)
3. GEOL 511 - The Dynamic Earth (3 hours)
4. REC 532 - Environmental Education Resources (3 hours)
5. REC 434g - Environmental Interpretation (3 hours)
6. ELED/MGE/SEC 570 - Workshops: Environmental Education (1-3 hours)

Gifted and Talented Endorsement 12 hours
1. GTE 536 - Nature and Needs of Gifted, Creative and Talented Students (3 hours)
2. GTE 537 - Curriculum, Strategies, and Materials for Gifted Students (3 hours)
3. PSY 432G - Psychology of the Gifted and Creative (3 hours)
4. GTE 538 - Practicum for Teachers of Gifted Students (3 hours)

Instructional Computer Technology Endorsement 12 hours
Required Courses 6 hours
1. LME 535 - Survey of Educational Technology Practices (3 hours)
2. LME 537 - Principles of Educational Technology (3 hours)

Elective Courses 6 hours
1. LME 545 - Educational Technology Production (3 hours)
2. LME 550 - Emerging Technology in Education (3 hours)
3. LME 547 - Integration of Educational Technology (3 hours)
4. LME 737 - Educational Technology Leadership (3 hours)

Program Completion Requirements
Students must successfully complete TCHL 560 — Action Research Capstone for Teacher Leaders (with a course grade of C or higher) and present research results in an approved venue.
Students must achieve a minimum 3.0 GPA overall and in program course work.

Total Program Hours: 30-37