

Alternative Preparation for Licensure: Determining Acceptable Majors

For traditional teacher preparation programs, the descriptions of acceptable majors for Early Childhood Education PreK-3, Elementary Education K-6, Middle Grades Education 4-8, Special Education: Preschool/Early Childhood PreK-3, Special Education: Modified K-12, and Special Education: Comprehensive K-12 are included in Implementation Standards associated with the respective licensure standards. The descriptions of acceptable majors may also be used as one way of determining acceptable majors for alternative licensure teacher candidates. The information that follows is a compilation of the descriptions of acceptable majors.

Early Childhood Education PreK-3

Candidates in early childhood education complete a major, consisting of courses offered primarily by faculty from arts and sciences disciplines. The major includes in-depth study of one or more fields, provides candidates the opportunity to demonstrate the integration of knowledge across the disciplines, and promotes an understanding of the processes of inquiry and research. The major may be combined with study in other fields related to how children learn in the context of their environment. Enrollment in such a major is open to students who are preparing for licensure in early childhood education and to students who are not. Examples include the following:

- A. An interdisciplinary major, which includes study in what is taught in primary grades.
- B. An interdisciplinary major in human development and learning which draws upon fields such as psychology, sociology, cultural anthropology, biology, and child development.
- C. A major in a single discipline. Majors in child development and family studies, human growth and development, and developmental psychology are particularly appropriate; other majors will be considered for approval.

Elementary Education K-6

Candidates in elementary education complete a major, consisting of courses offered primarily by faculty from arts and sciences disciplines. The major includes in-depth study of one or more fields, provides candidates the opportunity to demonstrate the integration of knowledge across the disciplines, and promotes an understanding of the processes of inquiry and research. The major may be combined with study in other

fields related to how children learn in the context of their environment. Enrollment in such a major is open to students who are preparing for licensure in elementary education and to students who are not. Examples include the following:

- A. An interdisciplinary major, which includes study in English, mathematics, science and social studies.
- B. An interdisciplinary major in two disciplines from the arts and sciences. The major may include any combination of subjects taught in elementary grades.
- C. A major in a single discipline from the arts and sciences.

Middle Grades Education 4-8

Candidates in middle grades education complete a major, consisting of courses offered primarily by faculty from arts and sciences disciplines. The major includes in-depth study of one or more fields, provides candidates the opportunity to demonstrate the integration of knowledge across the disciplines, and promotes an understanding of the processes of inquiry and research. The major may be combined with study in other fields related to how children learn in the context of their environment. Enrollment in such a major is open to students who are preparing for licensure in middle grades education and to students who are not. Examples include the following:

- A. An interdisciplinary major, which includes study in English, mathematics, science and social studies.
- B. An interdisciplinary major in two disciplines from the arts and sciences. The major may include any combination of subjects taught in elementary grades.
- C. A major in a single discipline from the arts and sciences with an area of emphasis (approximately 10% of the undergraduate curriculum) in at least one additional discipline outside the major.

Special Education: Preschool/Early Childhood Education PreK-3

Special Education: Modified K-12

Special Education: Comprehensive K-12

Candidates in special education may have an interdisciplinary major in exceptional learning or the equivalent or they may major in any acceptable major in corresponding general curriculum areas.