University of Utah, College of Education

Master of Education in Educational Psychology with Elementary Licensure through the Urban Institute for Teacher Education
Updated Spring 2025

Program Information is subject to change without notice - Updated 1/2025

The Master of Education in Educational Psychology with Elementary Licensure program is designed to effectively prepare teacher candidates to work with students across various age and ability levels and cultural, linguistic, and socioeconomic backgrounds. Students will work with both the Department of Educational Psychology (ED PS) and the Urban Institute for Teacher Education (UITE) to complete this program.

Master's Degree Requirements

Students must successfully complete the entire outline of coursework, pass a comprehensive exam, and fulfill program and graduation requirements to complete the Master's of Education in Educational Psychology degree.

Elementary Licensure Requirements

Upon successful completion of Years One, Two, and Three coursework, and the Utah Foundations of Reading Assessment (UFORA) students will be recommended by UITE to receive their initial Utah Professional Teaching License in Elementary Education, grades K-8. Teaching licenses are granted by the Utah State Board of Education.

ESL Endorsement

Students could also obtain an ESL endorsement, qualifying them to work with English language learners. To qualify, students must take the ESL Endorsement courses and the Praxis English to Speakers of Other Languages Exam (#5362),

Admission to the Program

To apply for the Master of Education in Educational Psychology with Elementary Licensure program, applicants must submit their Apply Yourself application by **February 1** for fall admittance or **November 1** for spring admittance. Any application materials that are not uploaded on the Apply Yourself Application must be submitted to the Elementary Education Advisor, SAEC 2264 or the Urban Institute for Teacher Education Main Office, SAEC 2260.

Educational Psychology Advising and Contact Information

Department of Educational Psychology
1721 Campus Center Drive # 3220
Salt Lake City, UT
84112801-581-7148
www.edps/utah.edu

Colli Lucas, Ph.D.
Literacy, Language, and Learning
Program Director
literacy@utah.edu
Scott Riels—Academic Program Specialist
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Urban Institute for Teacher Education Advising and Contact Information

Urban Institute for Teacher Education
1721 Campus Center Drive # 2260
Salt Lake City, UT 84112 801-581-7158
www.uite.utah.edu

Sara Hatch-Southwick
UITE Advisor 801-581-6818
SAEC # 2264 sara.hatch@utah.edu
https://uite.utah.edu/students/advising/

Outline of Curriculum

Prerequisites – 9-13 Credit Hours *(may be taken prior to admission into the program or during Year One and Two Program Courses)*

- ECS 2150 Introduction to Multicultural Education (3) (Ethnic Studies prerequisite-offered every semester) OR ECS 6/5634 Foundations of Bilingual Bicultural Education for Linguistically Diverse Students Education (3) (spring only)

- ED PS 2140/6141 Using Technology in Diverse Classrooms (2) 2
- FCS 2180 Home, School, and Community Relations (3)
- MATH 1050 College Algebra‡ or MATH 2000 Algebraic Reasoning (4) (See Elementary Advisor for details) EDU 1010 Introduction to Teaching *Students are encouraged to take this course if they do not have prior experience working with students. The course is not required to complete the program. This course is designed to help students understand the teaching profession from an educator's point of view. This course does have a field component.*

Year One Courses – 25 Credit Hours (Note the semesters when courses are offered)

- EDU 6200 Teacher Language Awareness (3) (Fall/Spring) *Course has a 16 hour field practicum component; course is prerequisite to ECS 6645) Online only.*
- ED PS 6315 Reading Methods I: K-6 Foundational Skills, Phonics, Word Study & Fluency (3) (Fall/Spring/Summer)
- EDU 5316 Basic Intervention for Primary Grade Readers (1) (Fall/Spring/Summer)
  - *ED PS 6315 and EDU 5316 should be taken concurrently; EDU 5316 has a 25 hour field practicum component*
- ED PS 6321 Reading Methods II: K-6 Vocabulary and Comprehension Instruction (3) (Spring/Summer)
- EDU 5321 Basic Intervention for Upper Elementary Grade Readers (1) (Fall/Spring/Summer)
  - *ED PS 6321 and EDU 5321 should be taken concurrently; EDU 5321 has a 25 hour field practicum component and has a pre-requisite of EDU 5316*
- SP ED 5011 Inclusive Early Childhood and Elementary Classrooms (3) (Fall/Spring)
- SP ED 6021 Principles of Assessment and Data-Based Decision Making (3) (Fall/Spring/Summer)
- MATH 4010‡ Math for Elementary School Teachers I(4) (Fall/Spring)
  - *Course has a 6 hour field component; has a pre-requisite of MATH 1050/2000 with a grade of C or better or 1010 with a B- or better. See Elementary Advisor for details.*
- MATH 4020‡ Math for Elementary School Teachers II(4) (Fall/Spring/Summer)
  - *Course has a 6 hour field component; has a pre-requisite of MATH 4010 and MATH 1050/2000. Course must be taken within one year of Math 4010.*

Year Two Courses – 24 Credit Hours

- ECS 6645 Assessment of Linguistically Diverse Populations (3) (Fall/Spring/Summer)
  - *Course has pre-requisites of ECS 2150 or ECS 5/6634, EDU 6200, and SP ED 6021. Must contact the Elementary Education Advisor one full year in advance ofenrollment in course.*
- ED PS 6005 Writing Instruction and Assessment K-6 (3) (Fall/Spring/Summer)
- EDU 6375 Elementary Science Methods (3) (Fall/Spring/Summer)
- SP ED 6022 Principles of Instruction and Behavioral Support (3) (Fall/Spring/Summer) OR ED PS 6070 Changing Children's Behavior Using Positive Methods (3) (semester varies)
- SP ED 6040 Legal and Policy Foundations of Special Education (3) (Spring) OR ELP 6410 Introduction to Educational Law for School Admins (3) (Fall)
- ECS 6647 Instructional Methods for Linguistically Diverse Populations (3) (Fall/Spring/Summer)
  - *Course has same prerequisites as ECS 6645*
- ED PS 6050 Life Span Development (3) (semester varies) OR ED PS 6720 Child Development and Learning: Understanding Children Birth to Grade 6 (Fall/Summer)
- ED PS 6711 Foundations of Reading (3) (semester varies) OR ED PS 6451 Foundations of Learning (3) (Fall)
- ED PS 6030 Intro to Research Design (3) (Fall) OR SP ED 6610 Intro to Research Design (3) (Summer) OR ED PS 6712 Reading Research (3) (semester varies)
  - *May be taken during Year3.*

End of Year One:

- Form Supervisory Committee Educational Psychology

Spring of Year 2

- Take the Educational Psychology Comprehensive Exam
- Take the Praxis II Elementary Content Knowledge and Praxis ESL Exams

See page 3 for more information regarding testing

‡ An alternative pathway may be available for students who have not taken Math 1050 or Math 1050 has expired (MATH 2000). See the elementary advisorfor details. Math 1050/2000 expires after two years; the Accuplacer Exam is required for math placement if it has been longer than two years. Students have one yearto complete the Math 4010/4020 sequence. To register for Math courses, go to www.math.utah.edu. For more information please see the Elementary Academic Advisor.

Outline of Curriculum

Year Three (Licensure Year) Courses – 28 Credit Hours
Fall Semester:

- EDU 6310 Theories of Classroom Management (3) 3
- EDU 6360 Elementary Math Methods in Diverse Classrooms (3)
- EDU 6380 Elementary Social Studies Methods (3)
- EDU 6390 Field Practicum: Elementary (3)
- EDU 6201 Teaching Practices, Ethics, and Professional Development (1)
- ED PS 6712 Reading Research (semester varies) OR ED PS 6030 Intro to Research Design (Fall) OR SP ED 6610 Intro to Research Design (Summer)

Spring Semester:

- EDU 6395 Student Teaching: Elementary (9)
- EDU 6391 Professional Development Seminar (3)

Course Availability

Please note that not all courses will be available every semester. Courses may not be offered at the same time as years past. Please check with the academic advisor if you have questions concerning the availability of courses.

Taking Courses as a Non-Matriculated Student

Those interested in taking courses prior to being admitted to the program may do so as a non-degree seeking, or non-matriculated, student. To apply for non-matriculated status, please go to http://admissions.utah.edu/nondegree/ and follow the application process. Please meet with the Elementary Education advisor to discuss which courses can be taken prior to program admission. Please note that only (6) six credit hours can be taken as a non-matriculated student prior to admission to the graduate school.

Testing and Exams

Praxis II Test for Teacher Licensure

1. Elementary Education Multiple Subject Exam: #5001
   Students must take the Praxis II Elementary Education Multiple Subjects Exam Test 5001. This exam is required for licensure by the Utah State Board of Education. Students must pass the individual sections of the Praxis test and submit their test scores and test breakdown scores (found on page 3 of your test score report) to the elementary advisor prior to being recommended for licensure. The individual sections are: Reading and Language Arts #5002, Mathematics # 5003, Social Studies #5004 and Science #5005. Please note that the University of Utah does not receive Praxis scores from ETS. It is the student's responsibility toprovide the elementary advisor with a copy of their full Praxis II score report (3 pages) including prior to licensure recommendation. All subtests are required to be passed prior to beginning the licensure year.

2. Praxis II English to Speakers of Other Languages Exam: #5362
   Students must take all the ESL courses and take the Praxis II English to Speakers of Other Languages Exam (#5362) to qualify for the ESL Endorsement. Students must also submit a copy of their full score report to the elementary advisor.

3. Praxis Performance Assessment for Teachers (PPAT)
   Teacher Candidates at the University of Utah are expected to comply with Utah State Board of Education requirements for performance assessment. The University of Utah uses the Praxis Performance Assessment for Teachers (PPAT) as a criterion for licensure recommendations. Please see https://www.ets.org/ppa/test-takers/teachers/about as well as program handbooks for more information.

Educational Psychology Comprehensive Exam

Students are required to take and pass a Comprehensive Exam in Educational Psychology prior to receiving their master's degree. This exam should be taken during the spring of your second year and is issued during the University of Utah's Spring break only. The comprehensive exam is an open book, take home exam consisting of three questions. This examination will be based on completed course work, but will extend beyond course content to include syntheses across courses, critical analyses of research and practice, and the integration of theory and practice. Students will register for a 3 credit Comprehensive Exam course the semester they take the exam. Please contact the Department of Educational Psychology for more information regarding the exam.

Completing the Teaching License

Once students have successfully completed the program coursework, have taken and passed the PPAT, Praxis II, Praxis ESL exams,and have completed all other licensure requirements, they will be recommended by UITE for their Utah Professional Teaching License. Students will work with the elementary education advisor during Spring semester of Year Three to submit appropriate paperwork and complete requirements for recommendation.

Completing the Master's Degree

After completing all licensure requirements, students must also complete all ED PS advanced graduate work and pass the final comprehensive exam to be awarded the Master's of Education degree. Students must have completed all of the program requirements to qualify. Students will work with the Department of Educational Psychology faculty and academic advisors to complete any Advanced Graduate coursework and testing, and all graduation and master's degree requirements.

Program Admission Process

Eligibility

To be eligible for the program, you must have:

- A valid Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university
- A 3.0 GPA in previous undergraduate work on a 4.0 scale

Admission Application and Procedures

University Graduate School and the Department of Educational Psychology Application: Apply Yourself
Deadlines: February 1st for Fall; November 1st for Spring

1. Steps to complete the Apply Yourself application:
   - Go to https://app.applyyourself.com/?id=utahgrad.
   - Set up an account
   - Begin an application for admission
   - On the "Program Information" tab, under "Program of Interest", please choose "Educational Psychology MED". Under "Emphasis Area", please choose "Elementary Licensure".
   - Upload the required departmental materials to the application (see below for more information regarding required materials):
     - Statement of Professional Purpose
     - Letters of Recommendation
     - Transcripts
     - Background Check Confirmation, CACTUS Screenshot
     - Supplemental Elementary Education Application

Fill in all other necessary information and submit application. Pay application fee.

International students whose first language is not English are required to submit scores from the TOEFL exam. An official TOEFL score should be sent directly to the International Admission Office from the TOEFL. Scores must be less than two years old at the time of admission. Passing scores are: 80 Ibt (internet based test); or 550 Pbt (paper based test).

2. Urban Institute for Teacher Education Application Materials
These documents must be uploaded directly to the Apply Yourself application.

a). Statement of Professional Purpose: Submit a statement informing the Admissions Committee of your strengths as a candidate in the teacher education program in the Urban Institute for Teacher Education at the University of Utah. Essays should be approximately two pages in length and may be double-spaced. Your essaywill be evaluated on its content as well as your ability to convey your ideas in formal academic language using standard writing conventions. Use the following rubric to assist in writing your statement. Criteria

	INADEQUATE	ADEQUATEA
Illustrate your commitment and passion to the teaching profession	The writer does not provide an illustration of a commitment to teaching based on *relevant* past experiences working with youth and future goals for teaching in K-12 schools. The statement does not convey the writer's passion to the teaching profession.	The writer provides an illustration of a commitment to teaching based on *relevant* past experiences working with youth and future goals for teaching in K- 12 schools. The statement adequately conveys the writer's passion to theteaching profession.
Discuss your commitment to the mission of the Urban Institute for Teacher Education (UITE) with regard to diversity and multicultural education	The writer does not provide sufficient evidence of a commitment to the mission of the UITE and to issues related to diversity, including but not limited to language, culture, ability and does not address why the writer is committed to this mission.	The writer provides sufficient evidence of a clear commitment to the mission of the Urban Institute of Teacher Education and to issues related to diversity in its varied forms, including but not limited to language, culture, and ability and addresses why the writer is committed to this mission.
Demonstrate your ability toA think deeply about and analyze contemporary educational issues	The writer does not provide evidence that the writer can think deeply about contemporary educational issues thataffect youth in today's society.	The writer provides clear evidence that the writer can think deeply about contemporary educational issues that affect youth in today's society.
Attend to the overall organization and flow of your statement and clarityof your writing	The writer's statement is generally unclear and/or not succinct and/or may be rambling and/or meaning is hidden and/or paragraphs poorly structured. No structure is used to convey ideas.	The writer's statement is clear and succinct, and paragraphs are well organized. Meaning is clear to readers. The writer uses an appropriate structure to convey ideas.
Attend to standard conventions of writing, including spelling, usage, punctuation and grammar	The writer does not use standard conventions of writing or makes manyerrors in spelling, usage, punctuation or grammar. The writing piece doesnot look presentable.	The writer uses all standard conventions or writing with few or no errors in spelling, usage, punctuation and grammar. The writing piece looks presentable.
Use formal academic language rather than colloquial or informal conversation	The writer uses conversational and/or colloquial language—use of contractions (isn't, doesn't, shouldn't); and informal vocabulary terms such as "and so," "like," "get," "very," "of course," "a lot," "lots," "good," "really," "kind of."	The writer addresses the Admissions Committee and uses formal academiclanguage throughout the statement.

b). **Letters of Recommendation:** Three (3) letters of recommendation are required to be included in the admission applications. Letters should be written by individuals who know the applicant on a professional and/or academic level, and who have insight into the educational experiences, intellectual abilities, and professional temperament of the applicant. Letters should be dated from within (1) one year of application. Applicants should include one (1) letter of recommendation from each of the following areas with their application:

- **Teaching and Working with the Youth:** This letter is to be written by a professional educator who has supervised and/or observed the applicant while interacting with children in an academic setting (e.g., a cooperating public school teacher in whose classroom the applicant has volunteered or observed during a field placement assignment). 6

- **Academic Performance:** This letter should be written by a university or college instructor who can write knowledgeably about the applicant's intellectual performance and ability as a scholar. University of Utah instructors are preferred as writers for students who have completed at least one semester at the University of Utah.

- **Professional Attributes:** This letter is a character reference that speaks to the applicant's reliability, initiative, organization, communication skills, and contributions to a group working situation. The letter may be written by a past or current employer or any additional university or college instructor.

Please note that the letters of recommendation should be submitted through Apply Yourself.

c). **Transcripts:** Students should request transcripts from every school from which they have received credit, including foreign or correspondence schools, no matter how long ago the credit was earned, to include in their application.

- **For Application:** Unofficial transcripts from the University of Utah and all other universities and colleges previously attended are required for the application. Transcripts must be uploaded in the Apply Yourself system as part of the application process. Electronic transcripts may also be submitted directly to the UITE.
- **Once Admitted:** Official Transcripts from the University of Utah and all other universities and colleges previously attended must be sent to the Graduate School and the UITE Advisor. All should either electronic transcripts (preferred) or paper versions need to be current, stamped, and unopened. All transcripts electronic or paper should be sent directly to the UITE.

d. **Proof of Background Check and Fingerprinting Completion:** A background check and fingerprinting must be completed and cleared through the Utah State Board of Education. Applicants need to include proof that they have initiated and completed this process (USBE CACTUS Screenshot), with their application.

To initiate the background check and fingerprinting process, please complete the following steps found at our website: https://uite.utah.edu/students/background-check/. To ensure that the background check is completed fully and completely, it is strongly encourage that applicants follow the steps listed on the website.

Steps include:

1. Go to www.utah.gov/teachers.
2. Select "Background Check" for initial licensure. Follow the prompts.
3. Select the "Live Scan" method for fingerprinting.
4. Your forms will be emailed to you. Print this form and take it with you to either: BCI – Bureau of Criminal Identification 3888 West 5400 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84118, 801-965-4445. Hours: Monday – Friday 8am to 5pm. Your Unique Prints Fingerprinting (YUP) locations. YUP locations can be found here: https://www.yupfingerprinting.com/ Your results will not be sent to USBE if you do not take this form with you to BCI or YUP locations.

5. A fee of $15 will be paid at the BCI to complete your Live Scan fingerprinting. YUP may have fees of their own. Please save your receipt.
6. Your Background check is good for five years.

An email notification from the Utah State Board of Education will be sent to you and to the College of Education when you have cleared the background check and the process is complete. Please keep this email for your records. You must submit the CACTUS screen shot for your background check verification. You must clear the background check in order to complete the licensure program.

Please be aware that background checks and fingerprints are valid for five years. If a student's clearance has expired prior to completion of the program and licensure recommendation, they will need to renew their background check and fingerprints. Also, if anything occurs during the course of the program to render a student's background check invalid, the student will be pulled from the program and will not be allowed to continue.

Admission Policies

Admission Files: Admission files and all application materials become the property of the Urban Institute for Teacher Education and the Department of Educational Psychology. No part of the admission files will be returned to the applicant at any time.

Incomplete Applications: The Urban Institute for Teacher Education and the Department of Educational Psychology are not responsible for any materials missing from the application files. Complete files will be reviewed by the admissions committee. Incomplete files have no guarantee that they will be reviewed by the committee.

Notification of Acceptance: Applicants will be notified by mail of acceptance or denial into the program. Letters of notification will be sent to students approximately six to eight weeks after the application deadline.

Program Policies

Satisfactory Performance and Academic Progress: Students' overall quality of work and performance, as well as progress toward completing the program, will be monitored each semester.

Minimum GPA and Grades: Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA and all graduate degree courses must be completed with a grade of "B-"or higher. Should students fall below the GPA requirement, they will be asked to meet with the Director of Graduate programs. Courses finished with a grade below a "B-" must be repeated. Courses may be repeated once.

Minimum Continuous Registration: All graduate students must maintain a minimum continuous registration of at least three credit hours per semester, unless granted an official leave of absence, from the time of admission to the time of completion of the program. Summer semesters are not included in this regulation.

Time Limit: All work toward the master's degree must be completed within four consecutive calendar years.

Transfer/Equivalent Courses: A limit of 6 semester hours of transfer or equivalent courses will be allowed, approval subjected to the Director of Graduate Programs. Courses must be graduate level and must have a grade of "B" or better.

Sequence of Courses: All of Years One and Two coursework must be completed prior to beginning Year Three courses. Students are encouraged to meet with their academic advisors for the most current course offering schedule. Students who do not complete Years One and Two prior to beginning Year Three may be required to delay their Year Three courses until those courses are complete. All requests to delay Year Three must be submitted in writing.

Substitute Courses: The Department of Educational Psychology and the Urban Institute for Teacher Education reserve the right to substitute courses to fulfill program requirements.

Student Code: Letters indicating possible violations of the student code, and appropriate student responses, will be placed in the student's file.

Nondiscrimination Policy: The University of Utah is fully committed to policies of nondiscrimination and equal opportunity, and vigorously pursues affirmative action in all programs, activities, and employment with regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, and status as a person with disability. Religion, sexual orientation, and status as a disabled veteran or veteran of the Vietnam era also are protected under nondiscrimination and equal opportunity employment policies. The University seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. Reasonable prior notice is needed to arrange accommodations. Evidence of practices not consistent with these policies should be reported to the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Actions, 801-581-8365. Upon request, this information is available in alternative formats, such as cassette, Braille, or large print.

Utah Legal Policies

Background Check for Initial Licensure: By legislative mandate, applicants for teaching licenses in Utah are required to have completed and passed a background check, including fingerprinting. Background check clearance expires after 5 years, and may need to be renewed during the program in order to be recommended for a teaching license.

Criminal Conviction: Teacher licensure may be denied by the state of Utah because of previous criminal conviction. You must contact the Associate Dean for Professional Education of the College of Education before proceeding with your program in teacher licensure if you have any questions about your status. The Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission, c/o Executive Secretary, Utah State Board of Education, 250 East 500 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111, reviews all such cases.