Elementary Education at NMU

Use this guide to help plan your course of studies in Elementary Education. It helps to ensure that you have completed requirements, examinations, and applications at the appropriate time. The guide does not replace your advisor who offers personal guidance and experience to assist you in course selection. Be sure to check your NMU Bulletin for complete program requirements.

Terms You Will Hear

- **ACT**: The national college admission and placement examination. Students seeking admission to the School of Education must have minimum scores of 21 in Reading, 20 in Mathematics, and 21 in English, or have successfully passed the PPST in low areas.
- **PPST**: The Pre-professional Skills Test is an alternate measure of reading, mathematics, and writing skills. The PPST is taken by students who either have not taken the ACT or have scored below minimum.
- Every student has a **Planned Program**, a combination of a major or two minors, a suite of liberal studies courses, required education courses, and electives. The program must be completed to graduate.
- **Pre-methods** courses ground you in educational theory, historical aspects of education, and fundamentals of teaching.
- **Admission to the School of Education**: Prior to admission, your ACT/PPST scores need to be adequate and you need a minimum GPA of 2.7. ED prefix courses may not be taken until you are admitted.
- **MTTC**: The Michigan Test for Teacher Certification is composed of several tests; a basic skills test which is taken near the end of Pre-methods, and subject area tests which are taken after content material completed.
- The **Methods** phase of instruction includes courses designed to aid in the development of your skills in the classroom. They include courses in teaching reading, social studies, mathematics, and science, along with courses in special education and technology integration. Experiences in local schools are highlighted.
- The Methods courses are taught in **Blocks**, meaning that students are required to take specific courses at the same time.
- **Student Teaching** is the culmination of your coursework. In student teaching you spend a semester in a cooperating teacher’s classroom, working directly with children in their instruction.
- **Certification**: In order to teach in Michigan, you must receive certification from the state. Basic and subject area MTTCs must be completed, along with First Aid and CPR, prior to the awarding of the initial Provisional certificate.
Elementary Education Student Planning Guide

Early

* ACT scores must be Reading (21), Math (20), and English (21) or better or you need to take PPST in low areas.
* Start your liberal studies courses. You'll need 30-40 hours of these, including one 300-level course, one world culture course, and 16 credits of social studies.
* The sooner you can decide on major or minors, the sooner you can work on these.

Early Middle

* Take required courses that could cause conflicts if you postpone.
* Confirm majors/minors.
* ACT or PPST scores must be OK before ED 201.
* GPA ≥ 2.7

Middle

* Admission to the School of Education
* Start premethods classes
* Take MTTC Basic Skills test and apply for Methods phase during ED 230
* Major and minor coursework should be done before Methods courses

Late Middle

* Try to complete all other requirements prior to enrolling in the blocks.
* Need a "C" or better in all Education classes
* Take Elementary MTTC after methods blocks
* Complete student Teaching application 2 semesters before student teaching

Last

* Subject area MTTCs after methods & content courses.
* Background check and fingerprinting
* CPR and First Aid

Check to see which of the following you need for your program

- MSED 250: Physical Science
- MSED 251: Life Science
- MSED 252: Earth Science
- CS 255: Computing for Teachers
- MU 149AB: Music in the Elementary School
- HL 150: Health for the Elementary School Teacher
- AD 310: Art for the Elementary Classroom Teacher
- PE 224: Dev. Physical Ed. for Elem. Ed. Teacher
- Mathematics through MA 151
- Any Liberal Arts courses that are left

Carl Wozniak, 11/29/07