



School of Arts and Sciences  
College of General Studies

# PRE-EDUCATION

[www.education.pitt.edu](http://www.education.pitt.edu)

At the University of Pittsburgh, there are a number of ways in which you can pursue teacher certification. If you know you want to be an early childhood, elementary, or special education teacher when you enter Pitt during your freshman year, you should consider the Applied Developmental Psychology PLUS Programs, which lead to Bachelors and Masters degrees with options for one or more teacher certifications in five years. Additional information can be found at [www.education.pitt.edu/adp/index.aspx](http://www.education.pitt.edu/adp/index.aspx).

If you are uncertain about whether you want to be a teacher when you enter Pitt or decide during your undergraduate years that you wish to pursue teaching, you can consider one of two undergraduate degree options that prepare you for application to a graduate teacher certification program in the fifth year.

The first is an upper division undergraduate program in the School of Education, which leads to a general degree in Applied Developmental Psychology. This option is most appropriate for students who know they want to work with children or youth, but are considering careers other than teaching. See [www.education.pitt.edu/adp/index.aspx](http://www.education.pitt.edu/adp/index.aspx) or the Applied Developmental Psychology information sheet.

Another option is to pursue an undergraduate degree in Arts and Sciences. This option is appropriate for those who want to pursue a major field of knowledge, such as mathematics, history, or English, for which they may eventually want to be certified to teach at the elementary or secondary level. Information about this follows. Additional information may be accessed at [www.education.pitt.edu/il/programs.aspx](http://www.education.pitt.edu/il/programs.aspx).

### Post-Baccalaureate Options

At the University of Pittsburgh, you earn teacher certification in the early childhood, elementary, secondary, or special education from the School of Education at the fifth-year, postbaccalaureate level or the master's degree level. Since there are different prerequisites for admission to the different teaching programs, indicating your interest in preparing for a career in teaching as an undergraduate helps your advisor direct your course work so you fulfill as many of the prerequisites as possible, while completing your undergraduate degree. You can also choose to participate in extracurricular activities, internships, volunteer programs, etc. as an undergraduate that will help prepare you to earn teacher certification after you graduate.

### An Undergraduate Arts Degree

A strong liberal arts education in a field of study provides an excellent foundation for teaching. As there is no official major in pre-education at the University of Pittsburgh, you can choose from any of the more than 50 majors that the School of Arts and Sciences has to offer or from an appropriate College of General Studies major.

If you are interested in earning teaching certification at the secondary level (grades 7–12) in any of the five fields the University of Pittsburgh offers (English/communication, foreign languages, mathematics, science, and social studies), it is advisable that you pursue a major that gives you a solid background in that field.

Students interested in elementary education often major in **interdisciplinary studies**, an option that allows you to construct a major out of one to three areas of concentration of your choice, taking courses from several departments that reflect different aspects of the area(s) of concentration. Having greater flexibility in your course work, as this major allows, can help you fulfill the prerequisites needed to enter a teacher certification program more easily. Some examples of themes that students have defined as interdisciplinary studies majors include science and society, the 19th century, child development, and American culture and society.

## Postbaccalaureate Teacher Certification Programs

Aside from Applied Developmental Psychology PLUS program described above, students who complete an undergraduate degree, with certain prerequisites, have the following options for pursuing teacher certification in fifth-year, postbaccalaureate programs.

### 1. Certification can be obtained in three ways:

#### Professional Year Certification (30 credits)

This two-term, one-year program lets you earn the Instructional I Teaching Certificate that you need to teach in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Students who complete the Professional Year Certificate program and go on to pursue a master's degree in the School of Education can use up to 18 credits from the program to count toward their graduate work. After you complete three years of approved teaching in Pennsylvania on the Instructional I Teaching Certificate, you can earn permanent teaching certification, called the Instructional II Teaching Certificate.

#### Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) (48 credits)

This intensive program allows you to earn a master's degree in a specialized area of teaching and the Instructional I Teaching Certificate at the same time. The program generally takes two terms and two sessions to complete (summer-fall-spring-summer), and students participate in full-time or part-time internships at local schools as part of the program.

#### Certification Plus Degree (36 credits)

This option is for students seeking Instructional I certification along with a master's degree other than the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT). The program allows you to earn a professional degree for advanced study in a field and demonstrate a superior level of expertise and capacity for leadership in that field. Most students who take this option wish to pursue a Master of Education degree and certification in special education or reading.

### 2. Teacher certification is available in the following areas:

**The Early Childhood Education Program** prepares students to work with young children (birth–age 8), their families, and other professionals in facilities such as private schools, public schools, and care centers. It is geared toward individuals who have undergraduate backgrounds in speech, psychology, child development, or other related fields of study.

**The Elementary Education Program** trains students to teach children in kindergarten through grade six. The program provides quality student teaching/internships at local urban and suburban schools.

**Secondary Education** training is offered in the following areas:

*English/Communication* with concentrations in comprehensive English, speech, theatre arts, and film/media studies for grades 7–12

*Mathematics* for grades 7–12

*Science* with concentrations in biology, chemistry, physics, general science, and earth and space science for grades 7–12

*Social Studies* for grades 7–12 (social science and citizenship education certification)

*Foreign Languages*, including Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Russian, and Spanish for grades kindergarten through 12. A special option is available for dual certification in foreign languages and elementary education. Native speakers of the language of certification may be exempt from some of the program's prerequisite courses in language, but not the courses in culture, literature, and the structure of the language.

**Reading Specialist** for kindergarten through grade 12. Students in this program must already be certified in another subject area and have two years of teaching experience.

**Special Education** with concentrations in:

*Hearing Impaired*, which is a program for students who want to be trained as teachers of deaf and hard-of-hearing students in kindergarten through grade 12.

*Mental and Physical Disabilities*, which is a program for students who wish to teach children with learning disabilities, mental retardation, and physical disabilities. It combines courses in special education curricula and instructional methods with sessions of observation and teaching practice in a variety of educational settings.

*Vision Studies*, which trains students to teach children with vision disabilities in kindergarten through grade 12 and rehabilitate adults with visual disabilities. Students can earn a certificate in vision education, a certificate in orientation and mobility education, or a dual certificate in both areas. This is the only dual certification program of its kind offered in the northeastern United States. Specialists in the field of vision education are currently in high demand on the job market.

*Note: Teacher certification is not offered in art, music, computer science, or physical education at the University of Pittsburgh.*

### **Other Programs**

You can earn a Bachelor of Science degree in **movement science** from the Department of Health and Physical Activity at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Education. This major offers specializations in **exercise science**, **wellness**, and **coaching** and is suited to students who are interested in careers in the following areas: sport, fitness, exercise programming, wellness education, health sciences (i.e. physical therapy/medicine) or areas working with clinical populations [Note: some of the above areas would require additional graduate course work and preparation].

In April 2003, the movement science program became officially "endorsed" by the national American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM). Earning this endorsement also demonstrates that our curriculum covers the knowledge, skills, and abilities expected of an ACSM Health/Fitness Instructor<sup>SM</sup>, and will prepare students to sit for the ACSM Health/Fitness Instructor<sup>SM</sup> professional certification practical and written exam in their senior year. This curriculum also prepares students to seek entrance into graduate programs in the areas of exercise physiology, cardiac rehabilitation, physical therapy, or additional health sciences.

You are admitted to the School of Education's movement science program in your sophomore or junior year after completing one or two years of preparatory classes in the School of Arts and Sciences or College of General Studies. After completing this undergraduate degree, you are eligible to test for certification as an athletic trainer and prepared for a career in areas such as community recreation, corporate wellness, health promotion, and sports management. The curriculum also prepares you to seek entrance to a graduate program in physical education or physical therapy.

You can also pursue graduate study in the School of Education's **Department of Administrative and Policy Studies** to develop the knowledge and skills essential to effectively manage educational organizations. This program trains you to become a leader in an educational setting, someone that can research, evaluate, and implement entire systems of education in regional, national, or international settings.

Or, you can undertake graduate study in the **Department of Psychology in Education**, where you receive training in psycho-educational services involving counseling or research. These programs are geared toward students interested in careers in elementary or secondary school guidance counseling or educational research.

### **For more information on pre-education, please contact:**

University of Pittsburgh  
School of Education  
Student Personnel Services  
5K Wesley W. Posvar Hall  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260  
412-648-2230  
[www.education.pitt.edu](http://www.education.pitt.edu)

### **For more information on other majors, please contact:**

University of Pittsburgh  
Office of Admissions and Financial Aid  
Alumni Hall, 4227 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260  
412-624-PITT  
E-mail: [oafa@pitt.edu](mailto:oafa@pitt.edu)  
[www.pitt.edu/~oafa](http://www.pitt.edu/~oafa)

## Special Programs and Opportunities

### **Pitt Project Tutor**

This program allows undergraduate students to tutor elementary and middle-school children at several locations in the city. Students learn how to plan and implement tutorial activities, while offering personal instruction to children in the areas of literacy, arithmetic, problem solving, and goal setting.

**Future Educators—Student Pennsylvania State Education Association (SPSEA)** is an organization devoted to helping students develop an understanding and appreciation of the education profession and have a voice in matters affecting their education and the profession overall. Presentations by leaders in different fields of education are given throughout the year, and the SPSEA holds an annual convention where students can meet teacher role models and attend workshops on education and job hunting. The Early Development of Great Educators (EDGE) program offers a variety of workshops that can be brought to campus throughout the year on topics such as ethics, censorship, child abuse, student stress, time management, and teaching gifted children.

**The “America Reads” Program** is part of a national effort to help ensure that every American child can read well and independently by the third grade. Pitt undergraduates interested in teaching can participate in this program by tutoring children and participating in other educational projects in schools throughout the community.

**Kinder Kinetics** is a model physical education program designed for children ranging in age from 3–12 years who have varying motor performance capabilities. The program allows University of Pittsburgh students to get clinical and supervisory experience in the field, and provides research opportunities in the study of motor behavior and development with disabled and nondisabled children.