

**Does UW-Eau Claire have a program for persons who have completed a previous bachelor's degree and would like to become certified to teach?**

Yes. However, it is the same program our undergraduates complete and is not specifically designed for persons with a prior degree. Students apply for admission as an undergraduate post-baccalaureate student seeking teaching certification and submit official transcripts from each institution with prior college coursework. High school transcripts are not required. The application is available on line at <http://www.uwec.edu/admissions>.

**How long will it take to complete a teaching certification?**

The completion time will vary. It is dependent upon the number of credits remaining determined by comparing the previous degree coursework and the requirements to become certified. Students who have the ability to enroll full time will be able to finish the program more quickly.

**Does UW-Eau Claire offer any alternative teacher certification?**

UW-Eau Claire does not currently offer any teacher certification programs in a non-traditional format such as evenings only, weekends only, or distance learning. While students may be able to enroll in selected classes in the evening, summers, or online, most courses are only offered during the day-time hours during our regular academic year. To find out about alternative certification programs in the state of Wisconsin, please see the web site for the Department of Public Instruction at <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/tepd/indexed.html>.

**Does UW-Eau Claire offer any "fast-track" programs?**

UW-Eau Claire currently does not offer any fast-track program where students can complete the program in an accelerated format. All students must enroll in the traditional undergraduate program and follow the sequence of coursework.

**How long will it take to complete the coursework if I have the subject/major completed in my previous degree?**

It is typically 2 – 2 ½ years of full time study depending on remaining coursework. This includes one semester of student teaching. However, admission to the university does not constitute admission to the teacher education program. Students are required to complete the PPST/Praxis I with passing scores and to enroll in the first field experience course prior to application to the teacher education program. A minimum GPA of 2.75 is also required. When passing exam scores or the minimum GPA is not achieved, extra time will be added to completion time. Due to the competitive nature of the program, a 3.0/3.1 GPA is generally recommended at the time of application to the program.

**Can you enroll as a part-time student for teacher certification?**

Yes. You may be able to take some of the initial coursework on a part-time basis depending upon the remaining courses needed in general education and pre-program coursework. However, during specific semesters (i.e. BLOCK and Student Teaching) you will be required to attend classes on a full time basis due to the required field experiences in a school setting.

**How long will it take to complete a teaching certification if I have completed a similar minor in a previous degree?**

You must complete a *full major in a subject area* that is offered as a teaching certification at UW-Eau Claire. While some of the previous degree credits may meet some requirements in a major, the number of credits remaining will vary from student to student.

**How long will it take to complete the program if my previous degree is unrelated? (Example: I want to teach English, but my degree was in business)**

The amount of credits remaining will vary depending on previous coursework. In general, without having completed any of the subject area or teacher education coursework, it can be up to 3 to 3 ½ years of full time coursework including student teaching. This would be based on a full time status of at least 15 credits per semester.

**How long will it take to complete an elementary/middle education certification?**

Elementary education or MCEA (Middle Childhood through Early Adolescence) has very specific coursework requirements to enable you to teach a variety of subjects in the classroom. Therefore, even some of the general education course requirements may not be met by a previous degree. Depending upon previous coursework, it is generally 3 to 3½ years of full time study to complete the program for elementary education unless you have some prior education coursework.

**Can I receive an unofficial evaluation of credits prior to applying for admission?**

It is in your best interest to follow our application process and seek official admission first. If you are accepted to the university, your credits will be evaluated against the certification requirements. If you are accepted to the University, an official certification letter indicating your remaining coursework, field experiences, and exams will be issued to you in 3-4 weeks. You should seek out an advisor in the department of your subject area at that time.

**Do I need to apply separately for admission to the teacher education program if I am already accepted into the university?**

Yes. Admission to the university does not assure admittance to the teacher education program and is an entirely separate process. You must first complete any prerequisite requirements prior to applying for admission to the teacher education program. Application to the program is generally submitted after the first pre-program course is completed (ES 203, ES210/211, or ES 212). Admission is selective and competitive and there is no guarantee of acceptance into the program. All students compete on an equal basis for admission.

**Can I complete a master's degree at the same time that I complete the certification for teaching?**

UW-Eau Claire does not currently have a full graduate program which enables you to become a certified teacher while simultaneously completing a master's degree. There are some selected courses that have the option of graduate credit.

**Do I have to complete any general education requirements if I already have a bachelor's degree?**

Your previous credits will be evaluated against the teacher education requirements. If your transcript does not show specific general education requirements, you may have to complete some lower division coursework (100/200 level) required for teaching certification.

**How far in advance should I apply for admission?**

It is recommended to apply at least one full semester or more prior to your desired entrance term. The sooner you apply, the more likely you are able to enroll in the classes that you need. If you apply after our registration period has occurred for the next semester, then your class selection may be limited.

**How soon will I receive my certification letter following admission?**

You will receive your letter in approximately 3-4 weeks following admission to the university.

**What is the PPST/Praxis I exam?**

The PPST /Praxis I exam is a pre-professional skills test in reading, math, and writing. It is not required for admission to the university, however it is required as a prerequisite to specific education courses. Passing scores must be on record prior to completing the first teacher education course **ES210/211**, or **ES212** for the secondary programs. It is no longer required prior to the first course in the elementary/middle education program, but must still be completed prior to admission to that program. Official scores can take up to 4 weeks to be returned from the Educational Testing Service. The test is available in our Academic Testing Center. It can also be completed at another testing center location and scores sent to the UW-Eau Claire Testing Center.