

Admission Requirements

Admission to the College of Education and Psychology does not constitute admission to a teacher education program or to a non-teaching major program. Program planning and proper advisement must be completed to gain admission to both teacher education programs and non-teaching programs. Regular status in the College of Education and Psychology is maintained by meeting the quality point requirements for hours completed as designated by the general university requirement and evaluated by the Office of Admissions.

Teacher Education Programs and Requirements

The College of Education and Psychology offers programs leading to licensure at the K-6, K-12 or secondary level.

- Completion of a core curriculum of pre-major coursework
- A minimum grade point average of 2.75 on the 44 semester-hour core curriculum of pre-major coursework
- A grade of "C" or better in freshman English Composition I and II
- Successful completion of the Basic Technology Literacy Exam (BTLE) or the Internet and Computing Core Certification (IC³)
- Good academic standing at Southern Miss (a student on probation, probation continued, or suspension status cannot be admitted to teacher education until the transcript reflects good academic standing)
- A clear background check via www.certifiedbackground.com, the system currently selected by the Southern Miss Professional Education Council. Students who pass the background check process will be issued a background check badge.
- All candidates must subscribe to the Tk20 assessment system. Tk20 provides an electronic portfolio and storage system for students as well as tracks, stores, retrieves, and analyzes data for accreditation purposes.
- Successful completion of a nationally normed ability/achievement assessment OR a teacher education normed entrance test:
 - Nationally Normed Ability/Achievement Assessment:
An ACT composite score of 21 or higher, with no scale score below 18 (all on the same test date and prior to the entrance of college).
 - Teacher Education Normed Test:
Acceptable scores on the Core Academic Skills for Educators Test (CORE): Reading Test Code 5712 with a score of at least 156, Writing Test Code 5722 with a score of at least 162, and Mathematics Test Code 5732 with a score of at least 150.

After admission to a professional education program, the following requirements must be met to continue in the program: (1) All candidates must subscribe to the Tk20 Assessment System. Tk20 provides an electronic portfolio and storage system for students as well as tracks, stores, retrieves, and analyzes data for accreditation purposes. (2) A grade of C or better in all content courses in the academic major as well as all professional education courses with an overall grade point average of 2.5; (3) fulfillment of major requirements in subject area; (4) completion of professional education courses required by the major; (5) take Praxis II content and PLT tests and have scores reported to Southern Miss (code #1479) prior to graduation.

A minimum of 30 clock hours of clinical experience is required prior to teacher candidacy (15 hours of observation and 15 hours of practicum). Specific programs may require more practicum hours.

Requirements for professional education programs are subject to modification. For current program information, students should contact the University's Educator Licensure office, 121-A Owings-McQuagge Hall; 601.266.5522.

Mississippi Department of Education licensure requirements supersede the program requirements listed in the *Bulletin*. Mandated changes in program requirements will be communicated through the candidate's department.