LEBRON JAMES FAMILY FOUNDATION COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

College Requirements

Selection, Admission, Retention, and Teacher Licensure

The LeBron James Family Foundation College of Education (https://www.uakron.edu/education) has selective admission, retention, and graduation requirements for the completion of a program at The University of Akron.

For all students applying to a College of Education’s Professional Education program, the admission and degree requirements outlined in the current UA Undergraduate Bulletin will be used to determine admission (or readmission) and degree requirements for all programs.

From admission through graduation, all decisions are made following the College’s or department’s approved criteria. Prior to admission to a program, Ohio requires all colleges and universities preparing teachers and educational personnel to assess students in the areas of verbal communication and academic achievement. The University of Akron’s College of Education admission procedures are designed to establish admission criteria, provide for assessments, allow for skills enhancement, reassessment and reapplication where appropriate.

General Education Requirements: To be admitted to the LeBron James Family Foundation College of Education (https://www.uakron.edu/education), all students must be able to meet the following criteria: A student must have completed at least 29 semester hours of coursework. This coursework must include a minimum of three (3) semester hours in each of the required courses in mathematics, natural science, social science, and public/oral communications, and six (6) semester hours in English composition. Appropriate General Education equivalencies for transfer students will be determined by the University College Dean’s Office. The remaining 10 semester hours must consist of general education coursework that meets the requirements of the University and the admission requirements of the department’s program studies area.

Grade-Point Average: For admission, a grade point average of 3.0 or better overall and 2.5 or better overall in prerequisite credit hours from specific courses identified by College.

Academic Achievement: Competency in math skills as evidenced by: a composite score of 21 or higher on the ACT; 980(Math and Verbal) on the SAT; a grade of “B” or better in a minimum of 3 credits of mathematics that meets the University’s General Education mathematics requirement. Competency in reading comprehension and writing as evidenced by: a composite score of 21 or higher on the ACT; 980(Math and Verbal) on the SAT or a grade of “B” or better in a course that meets the University’s General Education Composition I requirement.

Bureau of Criminal Investigation Clearance: A signed Criminal Background Check Acknowledgement Form (https://www.uakron.edu/dotAsset/f67bd1f1-825f-4322-ba91-a05d0350009c.pdf) must be submitted. Current Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation (BCII) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) background checks are required before you may participate in coursework with field experience.

College of Education Application: All students must complete College of Education application (https://www.uakron.edu/education). Responses to the questions on the application will help College of Education advisors offer the most effective and efficient advisement. It will also help advisors know students as individuals with unique backgrounds and experiences. Undergraduate students should apply during the semester in which all College of Education Pre-admission requirements will be met.

Admission Timeline: Admission to a College of Education Professional Education program is in effect for five years from the date of admission. All criteria and procedures regarding selective admission and retention are available in The LeBron James Family Foundation College of Education, Zook Hall, The University of Akron, Akron, OH 44325-4201, phone (330) 972-7750 or http://www.uakron.edu/education.

Application for Admission to Professional Education Programs

All students are required to have completed the application process no less than six weeks prior to the semester in which they wish to begin coursework in the College of Education. Additional information and applications are available on the LeBron James Family Foundation College of Education website at https://www.uakron.edu/education/academic-programs/CIS/how-to-apply.dot

Program Area of Study: All students are expected to comply with requirements specified by the program to which they are applying. These are available in the department.

Advisement: All students will be assigned an advisor and will need to complete an individualized Program Course Distribution (PCD) with their advisor. This PCD must be completed during the first semester of admission. Students are encouraged to see their program advisor when necessary to assure they are maintaining progress in their program.

Retention: Retention of students in each program will be evaluation based. Students will have opportunities to upgrade their skills and achievement in areas where such needs may exist. Completion of program requirements will be reviewed by the student and faculty advisor. Approval to student teach is contingent on the student’s progress through the program of study with satisfactory grades. Graduation is contingent on completion of coursework, student teaching, GPA of 2.50 overall, 2.50 in education classes, and 2.50 in the student’s major.

Licensure: After graduation, students may apply for licensure through the Ohio Department of Education. The State of Ohio requires all applicants for licensure to submit a current BCII/FBI Clearance. A BCII/FBI Clearance is valid for 12 months from the date of issue. Ohio also requires all applicants for licensure to pass appropriate examination(s) for intended area(s) of licensure. Information about specific licenses can be obtained from the College of Education.

Transfer Students: Transfer students will be expected to meet the same admission standards as University of Akron students.

Post-Baccalaureate Students: Qualified post-baccalaureate students seeking licensure will be admitted to the LeBron James Family Foundation College of Education (https://www.uakron.edu/education) and to the appropriate program once they meet all admission requirements.

Bachelor’s Degrees

The Professional Education Program prepares students to teach in one or more of the following areas/fields: early childhood inclusive teacher
Preparation (age 3 through grade 3); middle childhood (grades 4 through 9); the conventional academic fields found in programs for adolescent to young adult students (grades 7 through 12); in special education as an intervention specialist for early childhood (P-3 mild/moderate/intensive); mild/moderate (K-12); or moderate/intensive (K-12); and multi-age (grades PK through 12). To qualify for the bachelor's degree, the minimum credits as required by the student's degree program at the time of admission with a grade-point average of 2.50 overall, 2.50 in education classes, and 2.50 in the student’s major must be completed.

The specific subjects required for degrees in certain fields are set forth in subsequent pages. In all cases, the requirements include courses in general education, professional education and content areas.

The Bachelor of Arts in Education degree is granted to those whose major is in one of the academic fields. The Bachelor of Science in Education is granted to those whose major is in the other special fields or in early childhood or middle childhood education.

Professional Education Programs

The conceptual framework theme, “Educator as Decision Maker,” is central to The University of Akron's Professional Education Program. This was chosen because the complexity of teaching is increasing and the professional knowledge base is growing. Decision-making is stressed in the standards-based programs that prepare teachers and other school personnel for professional practice. Initial professional education programs are aligned with the Ohio Standards for the Teaching Profession, and Specialized Professional Association Standards. Advanced Programs for practicing teachers are aligned with the Ohio Standards for the Teaching Profession. For more complete information about the professional education program, consult the College of Education at (330)972-7750.

Students must complete appropriate professional education courses with grades of ‘C’ or better before progressing through the program.

Professional Preparation

Built on a foundation of general studies that begins prior to admission, the Professional Education Program is organized into four phases that reflect how teachers can learn to make good decisions.

- Learning About Learners, “How can I use information about myself and others to understand decisions about students and learners?”
- Learning About Teaching, “How do I use principles of learning to make instructional decisions?”
- Learning to Apply the Principles of Teaching, “How do I make instructional decisions for specific groups of students?”
- Learning to Teach, “How do I make the best decisions for students?”

During each phase of the program, teacher candidates take a combination of core courses, field experiences, and courses in their program studies area. Students should note the sequence of core and program courses. The core courses cover the knowledge base that is common for all teachers, regardless of their teaching field. The field experiences provide teacher candidates with experience in schools from the beginning of their program. Additionally during their field and clinical experiences, teacher candidates learn to apply what they are learning in courses.

Program content area courses are related to teacher candidates’ intended area of licensure. In addition, teacher candidates have a faculty advisor to help plan what to study and to review what has been accomplished.

The culminating experience for teacher candidates is student teaching. Under the supervision of a team of college faculty and a classroom teacher, each student teacher begins to put newly-developed competencies into practice.

For candidates seeking to graduate without licensure, substitute courses for this culminating experience of student teaching and colloquium will be determined with recommendation by the advisor and subject to approval by the Dean to assure that candidates meet an equivalent number of Education hours for the program. Candidates must meet all other program requirements. If the student wishes to seek licensure after graduation, the student would need to apply to be admitted to the appropriate program. The student will be required to complete all necessary requirements for licensure in place at the time admission.

Clinical and Field-Based Experiences

All teacher candidates are required to participate satisfactorily in clinical and field-based experiences prior to recommendation for licensure to teach in Ohio. These clinical and field-based experiences are designed to provide teacher candidates with the opportunity to apply theory and skills related to their areas of licensure in diverse clinical and field-based settings. Clinical experiences are those planned activities in which professional education students apply the principles of teaching.

Student Teaching

Student teaching is an all-day, full-time, planned teaching experience for 16 weeks in an approved public or private school. Placements are made in schools selected and supervised by the College of Education in collaboration with school districts and faculty.

All teacher candidates must have an approved student teaching application on file to be considered for placement.

To qualify for student teaching, teacher candidates must have a 2.50 average overall, a “C” or better in professional education classes, a minimum of a 2.50 and/or a “C” or better in the teacher candidate’s major, and in methods courses as defined by departments. Satisfactory completion of field and pre-clinical experience is also required before student teaching.

Licensure

Every teacher in Ohio public schools is required to have a teaching license covering the fields in which teaching is being done. This license is issued by the Ohio Department of Education upon recommendation of the Dean of the College of Education. The teacher candidate must provide evidence of a current BCII/FBI Clearance, must pass appropriate examination(s) required in Ohio, complete the appropriate program requirements successfully, and be recommended for a teaching license.

Endorsements

TESOL Endorsement (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages)

This program introduces teacher candidates to the key issues in teaching English to non-native speakers through coursework in linguistics, second language theory and methods, and related disciplines.

Teacher candidates seeking this endorsement must have studied a foreign language at some time during their academic career.

Students who do not have English as a native language must demonstrate adequate proficiency in English with a valid TOEFL score.
of 580 or above and a score of 240 or above on the TSE (Test of Spoken English).