

Elementary Education

I. Knowing the Content

The professional education program provides evidence that Elementary Education certification candidates complete a program of Elementary Education studies the same as the academic content area courses and required electives of a major in a bachelor's degree. The program shall require the candidates to demonstrate their knowledge of the fundamental concepts of Elementary Education and competence in applying developmentally appropriate practices to meet the diverse needs of all elementary students (K-6) including:

I.A. Growth, development and learning including:
cognitive development and theories of learning,
oral and written language development,
typical and atypical physical growth and motor development,
social and personal development

I.B. Methods and issues of assessment and evaluation including:
diagnostic, formative and summative instruments,
formal, informal and authentic assessment procedures,
biases, tracking, labeling and lowered expectations,
aligning assessment to teaching and learning of special needs students

I.C. Reading/language arts instruction in accordance with the Pennsylvania Academic Standards including:
theories of reading instruction and emergent literacy,
word identification strategies,
reading comprehension and fluency development,
phonemic, morphemic, semantic, syntactic, and pragmatic systems of language,
various genres and applications of literature for children and adolescents,
elements of the writing process including spelling, grammar, punctuation and handwriting,
instructional technologies,
information management and library skills

I.D. Mathematics instruction at the elementary level in accordance with the Pennsylvania Academic Standards including:
prenumber concepts, number sense, whole numbers, fractional numbers, measurement,
algebra, geometry, estimation, probability, statistics, reasoning, and problem solving,
use of developmentally appropriate manipulatives, calculators, computers, and emergent technologies

I.E. Science instruction at the elementary level in accordance with the Pennsylvania Academic Standards including:
integrated concepts and processes of earth/space, life and physical sciences,
current instructional technologies, hands-on science activities and direct and inquiry teaching strategies,
scientific, societal, environmental and ethical problems and issues

I.F. Citizenship Education instruction in accordance with the Pennsylvania Academic

Standards including:

economics, communication, transportation, industrialization, technology and agriculture, geography including location, place, region, human and environmental interaction, world, national, state, and local history, political science, government, social organizations and civic responsibilities,

I.G. Social Sciences including:

human behavior, culture and society, family structures, prejudice, tolerance and other coping behaviors, artworks and other cultural artifacts

I.H. Arts instruction in accordance with the Pennsylvania Academic Standards including:

appreciation and production of the arts, basic concepts in art, music, dance, and drama, arts for therapy and recreation activities

I.I. Health, safety, and physical education instruction in accordance with the Pennsylvania Academic standards including:

personal, family and community health and safety issues, nutrition, wellness, and life long healthy habits, physical fitness, body coordination, the development of motor and manipulative skills and safety in physical activity settings, role and value of play, games and sports in child development, substance abuse and dependency and AIDS education, conflict resolution and school violence prevention

II. Performance

The professional education program provides evidence of the candidates participation in sequential and developmental field experiences and student teaching, under the supervision of college personnel and cooperating teachers who are well trained, have interpersonal skills and demonstrated competence in teaching. The program also provides evidence that the criteria and competencies for exit from the Elementary Education certification program are assessed in coursework, field experiences and student teaching and require the candidates to demonstrate their knowledge and competence in foster student learning through:

II.A. Managing the instructional environment

creating a positive, inclusive learning environment, establishing and maintaining rapport with all students, communicating high learning expectations to all students, establishing and maintaining fair and consistent standards of classroom behavior, creating a safe physical environment that is conducive to learning

II.B. Planning of instruction based upon knowledge of the subject matter, learning theory, classroom environment, students, the community and the Pennsylvania Academic Standards including:

alignment of curriculum, instruction, and assessment,

multidisciplinary curriculum integration,
collaborating with appropriate subject area specialist

II.C. Computer-mediated communications and emerging technologies including:
audio-visual hardware and other presentation tools,
productivity tools,
internet searches and electronic mail

II.D. Selecting, implementing and adapting effective instructional strategies, curriculum resources and technologies in collaboration with other educators to meet the needs of diverse learners including: assessing, identifying and building on the students' prior knowledge, experiences and skills in each content area, problem analysis, creativity, problem-solving, and decision-making skills, inquiry, direct instruction and cooperative learning

II.E. Developing, utilizing, and communicating appropriate measurement and evaluation procedures in the instructional program

II.F. Monitoring students' understanding of content, providing feedback to students and adjusting instructional strategies as needed

III. Professionalism

The professional education program provides evidence that Elementary Education certification candidates demonstrate knowledge of and competence in fostering professionalism in school and community settings including:

III.A. Professional organizations and professional journals

III.B. Integrity and ethical behavior, professional conduct as stated in Pennsylvania's Code of Professional Practice and Conduct for Educators; and local, state, and federal laws and regulations

III.C. Establishing and maintaining collaborative relationship with basic and higher education colleagues, families and the community agencies to meet the needs of diverse learners

III.D. Communicating effectively with parents/guardians, other agencies and the community at large to support learning and elementary education