

Admission Requirements

What are the Admission Criteria to Program?

Completed applications for admission into the graduate program are reviewed regularly throughout the year. The Teacher Education Admissions Committee (TEAC) makes admissions decisions and annually reviews admissions policies. A completed application includes the following:

1. Completed application to the Master of Arts in Education program with a nonrefundable application fee of \$25.00.
2. Official transcripts from each college or university attended.
3. Two academic recommendations on EMU provided forms: (a) building level administrator/supervisor and (b) someone qualified to speak to the applicant's academic ability and potential. (www.emu.edu/maed/forms)
4. A bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with at least a cumulative 3.0 gpa (based on 4.0). If this condition is not met, graduate gpa of six or more credits will be considered.
5. A valid teaching license, a copy of which must be submitted by the applicant for the graduate file. Applicants applying for the TESL emphasis with K-12 initial licensure in VA, and the At-Risk Populations emphasis, are exempt from the teaching license requirement.
6. Evidence of one year of successful teaching in public or private school/agency setting. Applicants applying for the TESL concentration with K-12 initial licensure in VA, and the At-Risk Populations concentration, are exempt from the teaching experience requirement.
7. A personal interview with the director or assistant director of the MA in Education program.

International Students: In addition to the requirements above, please submit the following information:

8. Nationality and country of birth. A financial certificate demonstrating the student's "ability to pay" is required in order for the program to issue a student visa application (I-20 form). International applicants currently residing in the U.S. must indicate status with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.
9. For applicants whose native language is not English, one of three conditions may be used to satisfy English proficiency.
 - (1) A score of 550 on the paper-based or 80 on the internet-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). EMU's institutional code is 5181.
 - (2) A written recommendation from qualified personnel from EMU's Intensive English Program.
 - (3) An assessment by the Teacher Education Admissions Committee (TEAC) based upon certificates and national examinations completed by the applicant indicating the applicant's English proficiency. Applicants who have studied and received a degree from a college or university where all instruction is in English are not required to submit English proficiency measures.
10. Submit an EMU graduate student Health Evaluation
www.emu.edu/studentlife/health/forms/

Candidate Assessments at Transition Points: Advanced Programs

Persons who do not initially meet all admission criteria may appeal in writing to the Teacher Education Admissions Committee for consideration of full admission.

Persons holding a bachelor's degree who are pursuing personal or educational development may enroll in graduate education courses, special institutes, or site-based curricular offerings without being admitted into the MA in Education program.

Persons taking more than nine semester hours are encouraged to apply to the program to ensure that subsequent hours can be counted toward the master's degree. Candidates may enroll in up to ten hours within a term (fall, spring, or summer) without written permission from the director or assistant director.

Candidates may change concentrations with the written consent of the director of the MA in Education program. Initial licensure programs in TESL, and certification programs in ESL or Reading Specialist require Teacher Education Admissions Committee approval to change concentrations or to add a certificate program.

What is Admission to Candidacy?

Admission to Candidacy indicates potential to conduct Action Research. Application for admission to candidacy may take place when the candidate has successfully completed two of the following core courses (EDCC 501 Creating Cultures of Change, EDCC 521 Peacebuilding & Conflict Resolution, or EDCC 531 Social & Ethical Issues) plus six semester hours of the concentration area courses. An application form will be sent by the administrative assistant to the candidate after course requirements have been met. All applications are reviewed for admission by the Teacher Education Admissions Committee.

Applicants seeking initial licensure in Virginia through EMU's MA in Education program are required to pass the VCLA and the basic skills assessment prior to candidacy. (See Required Licensure/Endorsement Exam Scores for equivalent basic skills assessment, p.44.) Applicants seeking initial licensure must be admitted to candidacy and take Praxis II #0361 prior to placement in an internship (student teaching).

Admission to candidacy is required prior to enrollment in EDCC 551 Action Research in Educational Settings. Mentors will be assigned during the Action Research in Educational Settings course.

A completed application includes the following:

1. A completed Application to Candidacy form.
2. A rationale (1-2 paragraphs) stating the reason the candidate's concentration area was chosen.
3. An academic recommendation form from an instructor of a core or concentration area course.

What are the Exit Requirements?

1. An exit interview with the director or assistant director of the MA in Education Program.
2. Have a minimum of a C or better in all EMU MA in Education courses to receive credit towards the MA in Education degree.
3. Successful completion of the Action Research Project and other program requirements.
4. Those completing initial Virginia licensure (TESL) must complete the EMU Technology Skills for Instructional Personnel (TSIP's), and complete the required Child Abuse Recognition and Intervention Training. A copy of the certificate issued by the Virginia Department of Education on the Child Abuse Recognition Training shall be submitted to the Education Department.
http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/licensure/child_abuse_training
5. Those completing endorsement/certification requirements for ESL or Reading Specialist must pass the required state assessments.
ESL in VA: Virginia Communication & Literacy Assessment: www.va.nesinc.com
Reading Specialist in VA: Reading for Virginia Educators: Reading Specialist (Praxis #0304 or 5304) www.ets.org/praxis (EMU-Harrisonburg recipient code is 5181.)
Reading Specialist in PA: PRAXIS: Reading Specialist #0300 www.ets.org/praxis (EMU-Lancaster recipient code is 2215.)
6. Those completing initial licensure or an additional endorsement must submit the necessary licensure forms and fees.
7. For the Reading Specialist Certificate with EMU Lancaster, candidates must complete the program with the following exit criteria: a)GPA of 3.0 or higher with no grade below a B; b)produce a passing score on the Praxis Reading Specialist Examination (#0300); and c)participate in an exit interview with the assistant director or director of the Master of Arts in Education program.