College of Education Undergraduate Advising
Subject to Revision – See Undergraduate Catalog and Degree Audit

4 – 8th Grade Science Certification (48S)
Catalog Year: 2014 (Effective Spring 2015)
Total Hours: 126 Credits

Degree: Bachelor of Science | Major: Interdisciplinary Studies | Certification: 4-8 Science

CORE CURRICULUM 42 Hours

Communication
(010) ENG 1310: College Writing I * 3
(010) ENG 1320: College Writing II * 3

Mathematics
(020) MATH 1315: College Algebra * OR 3
MATH 1319: Math for Business & Eco I * 3
(Prerequisite: See Undergraduate Catalog)

Life and Physical Sciences
(030) PHYS 1310: Elementary Physics I * 3
(030) PHYS 1320: Elementary Physics II * 3

Language, Philosophy, and Culture
(040) PHIL 1305: Philosophy & Critical Thinking * (WI) OR 3
PHIL 1320: Ethics & Society * (WI)

Creative Arts
(050) Select one course from:
ART, DAN, MU, or TH 2313: Intro to Fine Arts 3

American History
(050) HIST 1310: History of the United States to 1877 *** (WI) 3
(060) HIST 1320: Hist. of the United States from 1877 *** (WI) 3

Government/Political Science
(070) POSI 2310: Principles of American Government *** 3
(070) POSI 2320: Functions of American Government *** 3

Social and Behavioral Sciences
(080) Select one course from:
ANTH 1312: Cultural Anthropology 3
ECO 2301: Principles of Economics 3
ECO 2314: Principles of Microeconomics 3
(Prerequisite: MATH 1315 or 1319)
GEO 1310: World Geography 3
PSY 1300: Introduction to Psychology 3
SOCI 1310: Introduction to Sociology 3

Component Area
(090) COMM 1310: Fund of Human Communication ** 3
(090) Select one course from:
ENG 2310: British Literature before 1785 3
ENG 2320: British Literature after 1785 3
ENG 2330: World Literature before 1600 3
ENG 2340: World Literature after 1600 3
ENG 2359: American Literature before 1865 3
ENG 2360: American Literature after 1865 3

* Requires a grade of ‘C’ or better
** Requires a grade of ‘B’ or better
*** Two of the four HIST/POSI courses require a grade of ‘C’ or better

INSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT 1 Hour
US 1100: University Seminar (1-Hr Open Elec. if Exempt) 1

PROFICIENCY: Foreign Language
If two years of the same foreign language were not completed in high school, students must complete two semesters of the same foreign language at the college level to meet proficiency requirements
Foreign Language Proficiency

MAJOR: Interdisciplinary Studies 83 Hours
A 2.5 Major GPA is required to graduate, and Major coursework must be completed with a grade of ‘C’ or better

PHYS 1110: Elementary Physics Lab 1
BIO 1330: Functional Biology / BIO 1130: Lab 4
BIO 1331: Organismal Biology / BIO 1131: Lab 4
BIO 2411: Intermediate Zoology – Spring ONLY 4
(Prerequisites: BIO 1330/1130, 1331/1131)

CHEM 1341: General Chemistry I / CHEM 1141: Lab 4
CHEM 1342: General Chemistry II / CHEM 1142: Lab 4
(Prerequisite: CHEM 1341, 1141)

BIO 2450: Genetics 4
(Prerequisites: BIO 1330/1130, 1331/1131; CHEM 1341/1141, CHEM 1342/1142)

BIO 3421: Vertebrate Physiology 4
(Prerequisite: BIO 2450)
BIO 4305: Nature Study – Fall ONLY OR 3
BIO 4408: Science Processes & Research – Spring ONLY 3

BIO 4402: Earth Science I – Fall ONLY 4
BIO 4403: Earth Science II – Spring ONLY 4

BIO 4416: General Ecology (WI) 4
(Prerequisites: BIO 2450, 2411)

PHYS 1340: Astronomy: Solar Systems OR 3
PHYS 1350: Astronomy: Stars & Galaxies 3
MATH 2321: Calculus for Life Science I 3
(Prerequisite: MATH 1315 w/ ‘C’ or better)
MATH 2328: Elementary Statistics 3
(Prerequisite: MATH 1315 w/ ‘C’ or better)
MATH 3315: Modern Geometry 3
(Prerequisite: MATH 2321)

Courses below require a 2.75 Overall GPA and Junior Classification. Any additional prerequisites are indicated under specific courses

Education Core [Semester One]
CI 3310: Public Education in a Multicultural Society 6
CI 3325: Adolescent Growth and Development 3

Additional (Floater) Teacher Preparation Coursework
SPED 4344: Educating Students with Mild Disabilities 3

In addition to Junior Classification and a 2.75 Overall GPA, the following courses require admittance to the Teacher Preparation Program prior to enrollment

Field-Based Block One [Semester Two]
(Prerequisite: Education Core)
RDG 3315: Assessing Literacy: EC-6 3
RDG 4310: Content Reading 3

Field-Based Block Two [Semester Three]
(Prerequisite: Field-Based Block One)
CI 3300: Middle School Curriculum and Instruction (WI) 3
CI 4300: Middle Level Philosophy and Schooling (WI) 3

Student Teaching [Semester Four]
(Prerequisite: All Coursework Complete)
EDST 4680: Student Teaching 4-8 6

Program Notes
Additional Degree Requirements: See Undergraduate Catalog for Residency, GPA, and Graduation with Honors requirements
Writing Intensive Hours: 9 Hours of designated Writing Intensive (WI) coursework must be completed in-residence with Texas State
Important Program Notes: See Statements of Understanding sheet for additional notes regarding course sequencing and program requirements

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4th – 8th GRADE SCIENCE CERTIFICATION

DESCRIPTION OF THE DEGREE PROGRAM

This 126 credit-hour degree program prepares for certification to teach in a science 4th through 8th Grade classroom (4-8 Science), and involves the following areas of study: theoretical and philosophical foundations of middle level education; human growth and development; elementary and middle school science curriculum; instructional planning, effective teaching practices, and assessment; instructional technology; classroom management; modification of instruction for students with disabilities; content and content pedagogy for science; legal and ethical issues in education; and support of English language learners.

ADMISSION TO THE TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM

In addition to declaration of the major, students must apply and be admitted to the Teacher Preparation Program in order to enroll in Block coursework beyond the Education Core. Among criteria for admittance is a 2.75 minimum Overall GPA. The application and criteria for admittance are available on the Office of Educator Preparation’s (OEP) website: http://www.education.txstate.edu/oep/

TEACHER PREPARATION COURSE SEQUENCE

The Education Core can be taken while completing other degree coursework and provides the student with an introduction to the teaching profession. After completing the Education Core, students admitted to the Teacher Preparation Program become eligible to enroll in the Field-Based Blocks, referred to as ‘blocks’ because of their integrated curriculum. The Field-Based Blocks provide students with opportunities to gain classroom experience before the Student Teaching semester, prior to which all other coursework must be completed.

Once enrolled in the Education Core, students will need to apply through the ePortfolio system each semester for future block placements. These applications are not competitive but are reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis. Block applications are typically opened several weeks before the opening of advanced registration, with a late block application posted after registration has begun. Exact dates for block application availability can be found on the Department of Curriculum and Instruction’s (C&I) website: http://www.education.txstate.edu/ci/. Once submitted, students will receive confirmation of their placement by the first day of early registration or, in the case of late block applications, as processed by the Department.

SEMESTER ONE: Education Core (CI 3310, CI 3325)

Additional courses may be completed with the Education Core.

- Students should have completed most of their Core Curriculum, Support, and Major courses before enrolling in the Education Core
- Confirm prerequisite standing before enrolling in the education sequence to avoid future required science coursework/block sequence conflicts
- Students in the Education Core should apply to the Teacher Preparation Program and for placement in the next semester’s Field-Based Block One

SEMESTER TWO: Field-Based Block One (RDG 3315, RDG 4310)

Additional courses may be completed with the Field-Based Block. Field observation is required.

- Students completing the Field-Based Block One should apply for placement in the next semester’s Field-Based Block Two

SEMESTER THREE: Field-Based Block Two (CI 3300, CI 4300)

Additional courses may be completed with the Field-Based Block. Field observation is required.

- Students in the Field-Based Block Two must attend a Student Teaching Round-Up. This meeting is mandatory and is essential for Student Teaching placement. Round-Up dates are posted on the Office of Educator Preparation’s (OEP) website: http://www.education.txstate.edu/oep/Student-Teaching/student-teaching-announcements/
- Students are required to complete practice TExES exams and are encouraged to complete their final TExES exams during the Field-Based Block Two semester
- BIO 4305: Nature Study or BIO 4408: Science Processes and Research should be taken only in the long semester immediately preceding EDST 4680: Student Teaching

SEMESTER FOUR: Student Teaching (EDST 4680)

Student Teaching is taken alone in the final semester, after all other coursework has been completed. Field observation is required.

- To avoid having Student Teaching placement dropped, students must clear any Tentatives with the Office of Educator Preparation by the deadline
- Students must attend a mandatory Student Teaching Meeting at the start of the semester to review expectations, policies, and procedures
- Students should submit a Graduation Application online by the deadline stated on the Academic Calendar

IMPORTANT NOTES

- School districts will conduct background checks for students enrolling in field experiences and Student Teaching and have the right to deny any person entry to schools based on those results. Discuss any concerns with the Office of Educator Preparation
- The Field-Based Blocks and Student Teaching semesters are unpaid experiences that take place at public schools outside of the Texas State campus and are integral requirements for graduation in this program. Students are responsible for obtaining transportation to school placements. Transportation and/or financial challenges are not justification for having these requirements waived or altered
- The school settings required for field experiences and Student Teaching may pose challenges for students with certain disabilities. Discuss any necessary accommodations with the Department of Curriculum and Instruction and the Office of Educator Preparation as soon as possible
- Regardless of catalog year, students are held to prerequisites and academic policies that are subject to change without notice and at any time
- Teacher Certification will be issued by the Texas Education Agency and is contingent upon graduation (completion of degree requirements including Student Teaching and awarding of degree by Texas State’s Registrar’s Office), passing score on required TExES exams, and certification application
- Some upper-level Biology and/or Mathematics courses required in this program have limited offerings and are scheduled on a rotational basis (fall only or spring only). Students are encouraged to meet with an academic advisor on a regular basis to ensure appropriate advance planning and to make adjustments to their long-range plans if necessary

Students are responsible for knowing and fulfilling all University, College, Major, and Certification requirements and should refer to the Texas State Undergraduate Catalog for additional information.

Students are also encouraged to consult with Academic Advisors to ensure thorough understanding of all degree and graduation requirements

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