

ADMISSION TO PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS
IN TEACHER EDUCATION
USC - COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

INTRODUCTION

A student admitted to the University of South Carolina who declares education as his/her major will be admitted to the College of Education. The program area in which the student chooses to specialize will assign an academic advisor. A student is not admitted to the professional program in teacher education by reason of his/her admission to the University or College of Education. A student must make special application to be considered for the professional program in teacher education. Application to professional programs in teacher education should be made after the student has completed 45 semester hours and before the student has completed 60 semester hours. A student who waits until after 60 hours may be delayed in completing requirements for the program. To be fully admitted to the professional program in teacher education a student must demonstrate competency in each of the following areas:

- (1) intellectual competence and quality of scholarship,
- (2) leadership ability and personal and social fitness,
- (3) physical health for the tasks to be performed,
- (4) voice, speech and written English competency.

Listed below are the specifications of the four criteria used in determining whether a student is qualified for the teacher education program. Procedures by which the criteria are assessed are also listed below. It is the student's responsibility to complete all parts of the admissions procedure and have all materials sent to the Office of Student Services in the College of Education. Only after all materials have been collected in the Office of Student Services for an applicant will they be forwarded to the student's advisor for review. A student's advisor, after reviewing all application materials, will make a written recommendation to the admissions committee of the program to which the student is applying. The program admissions committee will make the final decision on a student's application. A written copy of this decision will be sent to the Office of Student Services which will inform the applicant of the decision. A student whose application to the professional program is rejected will be informed of any deficiencies in his/her application folder and of the appeals procedures available.

I. Intellectual Competence and Quality of Scholarship

A. Criteria

1. A student at the University of South Carolina must achieve a grade point average of 2.0 in all courses taken to be eligible for consideration. A student must achieve a grade point average of at least 2.5 in all education courses taken.
2. A student transferring from an accredited four-year institution must have an overall grade point average of 2.0 in all courses submitted to fulfill general and professional requirements. A

grade point average of 2.5 is required in all education courses taken by a student attempting to transfer from an accredited four-year institution. Students transferring from two-year or non-accredited institutions must have an overall grade point average of 2.5 in all courses submitted in fulfillment of general and professional requirements.

3. All students must achieve minimum scores or higher on the three sections of the College of Education screening examination.

B. Procedures

1. When students currently enrolled at the University of South Carolina present a change of school form, the Office of Student Services will request transcripts from the Registrar's office.
2. The University's Admissions Office will forward all transcripts of previous academic work completed by transfer students to the Office of Student Services. The Office of Student Services will verify students' grade point averages.
3. Students will apply to take the College of Education screening examination in accordance with policies which are available in the Office of Student Services at the College of Education. The examination scores will be forwarded to the student and the Office of Student Services, College of Education. Should the student fail a part of or all of the examination, he/she should consult the manual developed by the screening examination committee for information on remediation and procedures for retaking the examination.

II. Leadership Ability and Personal and Social Fitness

A. Criteria

1. The student must submit two letters of recommendation supporting the application for admission to the professional program which attest to his/her leadership skills and social competence necessary for becoming an effective teacher.
2. The student must receive a favorable recommendation for admission to the professional program from his/her academic advisor upon completion of the advisor's appraisal interview.

B. Procedures

1. The student must obtain forms for letters of recommendation from the Office of Student Services. It is the student's responsibility to have these letters completed by people who can attest to the student's leadership skill and social competency. Letters are to be mailed by the parties recommending the student to the Office of Student Services. When all admission materials have been assembled in the Office of Student Services, the letters of recommendation will be sent to the student's advisor for review.
2. The student's advisor will conduct an appraisal interview.

III. Physical Health.

A. Criteria

The student must show evidence of being of sound physical health.

B. Procedure

The student must submit a completed health form (by a certified physician) which indicates the student is free from communicable diseases. By state law this health form must be on file before a student can work with pupils in the public schools.

IV. Voice, Speech and Written English Competency

A. Criteria

1. The student must achieve a grade of C or better in English 101 and 102 or equivalent.
2. The student must achieve at least the minimally accepted score on the writing section of the College of Education screening examination.
3. The student must give evidence of having effective voice, speech, and hearing to teach.

B. Procedure

1. Transcripts of the student's record will be examined by the Office of Student Services to assure he/she has achieved a C or better in English 101 and 102.
2. The student's performance on the writing section of the College of Education screening examination will be checked by the Office of Student Services to assure the student has achieved at least the minimally accepted score.
3. During the appraisal interview, the student's advisor will give specific attention to the student's speech habits. The student is required to take a speech and hearing test from the University speech and audiology clinic.