



Bachelor of Arts in Human Growth & Learning Bachelor of Arts in Special Education Admission Requirements

Tusculum College seeks students who are mature and highly motivated. Applicants not meeting the minimum requirements for regular admission may be granted conditional admission or special student status. Conditional admission status is not applicable to those under 21 years of age. The specific degree completion requirements are detailed in subsequent sections of the catalog. To be considered for admission, a two-phase application process is involved. Requirements for the first step are listed below and requirements for the second step are listed under Application to the Teacher Licensure Program. Applicants meeting the first step requirements below will be eligible to enroll in our Gateway program while awaiting their admission decision for the Teacher Licensure program.

Phase 1: General Requirements

1. Complete the stated Admission Procedures on page 131 of the [Tusculum College Catalog](#).
2. Possess a minimum 2.50 grade point average (G.P.A.) on a 4.00 scale.
3. Have satisfactorily completed the following Prerequisites before entry:
 - English 110 or Composition I
 - English 111 or Composition II

- MATH 135 or College Algebra or higher, excluding teacher education mathematics
- CISC 100 or Computer Literacy
- BIOL 100 or Biology with Lab
- PSYC 101 or Essentials of Psychology
- PSYC 200 or Developmental Psychology
- PSYC 305 or Educational Psychology.

4. Completion of most General Education courses, with the exception of three selected courses, which may include the following:

- MUSC 101 (or) THEA 104 (or) VISA 110, 204 or 208;
- CMNS 330, GEOG 200, HIST 101 or 102, HIST 201 or 202,
- PHED 260, PHED 115 (or verification of certification),
- CMNS 380, SOCI 101.

Not more than one General Education course may be taken per semester while students are enrolled in the Professional Teacher Licensure Sequence. All General Education courses must be completed prior to student teaching. To dual enroll a student must have a Tusculum College grade point average of 2.75 or better.

***Note:** No courses either at Tusculum College or another institution may be taken concurrently while student teaching.

5. Professional recommendations from two persons (non-relatives) qualified to judge the applicant's potential for success with college-level work.

6. Students for whom English is a second language must have a score of 540-543 (paper), 207 (computer-based), 76 (Internet-based) or greater on the TOEFL examination taken within the last five years.

Phase 2: Admission to the Teacher Licensure Program

Students must meet specific Education Department requirements for admission into the Teacher Licensure Program. They are as follows and should be completed in the listed order:

1. Must be registered or enrolled as a current student at Tusculum College.
2. Have a minimum 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.
3. Have successfully passed PRAXIS I exams unless exempt due to adequate ACT or SAT scores or PRAXIS I appeal approval by Education Screening Committee.
4. Demonstrate written communication proficiency through a cold writing sample. Cold Writing Sample testing dates are offered once per month at the Knoxville and Morristown centers. The student should contact their academic advisor or regional coordinator to schedule a test date. The student is obligated to schedule their test at least 30 days prior to their scheduled Teacher Education Screening Interview.

Note: A maximum of three attempts to pass the writing sample is permitted.
5. Completion and passing of TBI background check and fingerprinting.
6. Submit a Teacher Education application to the Education Department.
7. Demonstrate proficiency in oral communication (and completion of Teacher Education Screening requirements) through a departmental screening interview.

Teacher Education Screening Committee

The Teacher Education Screening Committee reviews all student applications for admission into Teacher Licensure. The Committee is comprised of at least two professional education faculty members and at least one or more members of the regular faculty. The meetings of the committee are open to all faculty members. The Committee may invite specific individuals from the College community to assist in reaching decisions regarding candidates.

The Committee meets as needed throughout the academic year and has jurisdiction regarding who is admitted to the education program, regarding who is admitted to student teach, for hearing administrative appeals within the education program (academic appeals are heard by the Admissions and Standards Committee) and exercises an advisory role with respect to education program curriculum and operation.

When the candidate has satisfactorily completed and documented Items 1-7 listed above, application is made to the Committee. The Committee will review the materials and reach a decision regarding the candidate's admission to the program. Both the content and quality of responses have a significant influence in the candidate's admission to the program. The Committee interviews each candidate for oral proficiency in explaining autobiographical information and their self-assessment of strengths and weaknesses to be addressed while preparing to become a professional educator. Following the interview, the Committee makes a final decision, and written notification of the Committee's decision will be sent to the candidate's address within five working days. If the Screening Committee denies the application, the letter will include reasons for the denial. The candidate may appeal, in writing, to the education program coordinator stating the grounds that he/she believes warrant reconsideration.

The program coordinator will determine whether reconsideration is warranted. Appeal approval would allow the student to begin the next scheduled cohort group. Approval from the Committee and admission to the teacher education programs are prerequisites for enrolling in the Enhanced Student Teaching courses.

Students are responsible for making necessary arrangements to attend scheduled Teacher Education Screenings and could be subject to denial or delay of program entry for failure to attend the required screening. A Screening Appeal form is available for students who have valid, documented extenuating circumstances for the inability to attend a scheduled screening. The student must contact the regional education coordinator to obtain a copy of the Screening Appeal form. Teacher Education Screenings will be held seven calendar days before the student's scheduled program

orientation date. Students may be required to attend a second screening before the fourth course begins if deemed necessary by the Education Steering Committee.

PRAXIS I

The PRAXIS I must be successfully passed by all candidates for teacher education, unless the candidate is exempt as a result of adequate ACT (composite or score of at least 22) or SAT (composite score of at least 1020) test scores. The test may be taken on any scheduled test date during the year at any official test site or by computer at an approved site when the site is administering the test. Contact the Education Program Office for information about test dates, sites and registration deadlines.

There is a substantial fee for taking the test, which must be paid by the candidate. Students meeting criteria may apply for assistance with the test fees. Application for financial assistance should be made well in advance of the scheduled test date. Contact the Financial Aid Office for details.

The PRAXIS I must be successfully completed prior to screening for admission to the education program. A student who fails a portion of the PRAXIS I after having taken it twice may appeal in writing to the Teacher Education Screening Committee, stating the grounds that he/she believes warrant exemption from the requirement. PRAXIS I Appeal Forms are provided for students and are located at all College sites. PRAXIS I appeals must be submitted no later than seven calendar days before the student's scheduled Teacher Education Screening date. A student will be notified in writing of the Committee's decision within 14 calendar days from the date the appeal was submitted. PRAXIS I information can be obtained through the Certification Office at Tusculum College, through the Tennessee State Department of Education website or from Praxis at <http://www.ets.org/praxis>.

Background Check and Fingerprinting

Students applying to the teacher licensure programs must receive a fingerprint and background check to participate in practicum and student teaching components

required for degree completion. Tennessee state law dictates all persons who have contact with children in grades PreK-12 through the public school system must have an appropriate background check conducted by TBI.

Submission Deadline: Background check results must be submitted before a student may begin the Teacher Licensure Program. **Note:** Tusculum College reserves the right to refuse background checks from other agencies. The Education Department may accept background checks from school systems served by each campus. All background checks must be current, completed within the last calendar year and be free of offenses that would preclude placement in a school system.

For further details about applying to Student Teaching and degree requirements of the programs, please refer to page 137 or 142 of the [Tusculum College Catalog](#).

TUSCULUM COLLEGE

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