

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN EDUCATION (BAED)

BAED Admission

Students interested in the Bachelor of Arts in Education, K-6, Professional Teacher Licensure Program (BAED) through Graduate & Professional Studies must complete more than one admission application. The first stage in the admission process is as follows:

1. Application to Tusculum College.
The following admission requirements must have been met for initial admission into the BAED Professional Licensure Sequence:
2. A minimum 2.50 grade point average (G.P.A.) on a 4.00 scale.
3. Prerequisites before entry, which include the following:
Composition I & Composition II (or) Rhetoric 101, 102 & 103
MATH 102 (or) College Algebra
CISC 100 (or) Computer Science
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 (3) selected courses, which may include the following:
MUSC 101 (or) THEA 104 (or) VISA 110, 204 or 208;
RELG 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. The test of English as a foreign language (TOEFL) with an acceptable score (score of 550-paper, 213-computer-based, 80-Internet based or greater) AND taken within the past year for applicants whose primary language is not English.
6. Applicants who are 21 years of age or under will be asked to provide additional documentation for admission, and must meet G.P.A. and ACT/SAT requirements for admission. See page 15 of the Tusculum College Catalog.

PRAXIS I and the Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST)

The PRAXIS I and PPST 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. There is no prerequisite for taking the test. Locally, PRAXIS I exams

are offered at East Tennessee State University, the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, or Sylvan Learning Center in Knoxville. For more information about PRAXIS I (PSST) or PRAXIS II exams and a list of testing centers please visit <http://www.ets.org/praxis>

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. PRAXIS I (PPST) must be passed before entering the BAED program. An applicant must take the exam a second time if he or she does not make the required minimum scores.

Required minimum scores are as follows:

- Computerized Reading (5710) score of 174
- Computerized Math (5730) score of 173
- Computerized Writing (5720) score of 173.

A student who fails a portion of the PRAXIS I and PPST 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 7 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.

Background Check and Fingerprinting

Students in all BAED cohorts with Tusculum College Graduate & Professional Studies 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 BAED 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.

Application 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/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 the PPST (Pre-Professional Skills Test/PRAXIS I) 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 enrollment representative, 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.