

Associate in Arts in Elementary Education

Program Overview

Upon completion of this degree, students will have professional preparation aligned to Michigan's Teacher Preparation Standards including completion of minimum requirements for the apprenticeship component of clinical experiences in the primary grade band area of focus (PK-3 or 3-6). This program provides both research-based content and educator preparation including a practice-based preparatory system. Additionally, this degree aligns with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Professional Standards. Students will be well-prepared to transfer to complete a bachelor's degree with PK-3 teacher certification and/or 3-6 teacher certification.

To Learn More About This Program

Contact Ranee Conley at 269-783-2116 or rconley@swmich.edu.

Degree Requirements

To earn this degree, students must have an overall GPA of 2.0 or higher, complete a minimum of 60 credit hours, and fulfill the course requirements of the program listed below. Students, working closely with their advisor, are permitted to substitute the courses in the General Education and MTA Courses section below according to the guidelines on page 35 of this catalog. Each general education course, prerequisite course, internship/practicum, and capstone course must be completed with a final grade of C or better.

Course Offerings

Students pursuing an Associate in Arts in Elementary Education may complete select courses for this program online. Courses within this program may also be offered on-site at our Dowagiac or Niles campus.

General Education and MTA Courses

COMMUNICATIONS

Course ID	Course	Credits
ENGL 103 or ENGL 103W	Freshman English 2 (or with workshop)	3 to 4 credits
ENGL 104	Freshman English 3	3 credits

MATHEMATICS

Course ID	Course	Credits
MATH 128	Contemporary Mathematics	4 credits

NATURAL SCIENCE

Course ID	Course	Credits
BISC 111	Biological Science	4 credits
SCIE 190	Earth Science for Elementary Teachers	3 credits

SOCIAL SCIENCE

Course ID	Course	Credits
PSYC 101	General Psychology	3 credits
POSC 201	American Government	3 credits

HUMANITIES

Course ID	Course	Credits
HIST 230	Michigan History	3 credits
ENGL 251	Children's Literature	3 credits

Major-Specific Required Courses

Course ID	Course	Credits
EDUC 120	Educational Exploration and Planning	1 credit
EDUC 101	Introduction to Teaching	3 credits
EDUC 212	Introduction to Special Education	3 credits
EDUC 217	Early Childhood Development	3 credits
EDUC 220	Guiding Children's Social Development	4 credits
EDUC 260	Emergent Literacy	3 credits
MATH 153	Math for Elementary Teachers 1	4 credits
MATH 154	Math for Elementary Teachers 2	4 credits
SPEE 102	Fundamentals of Public Speaking	3 credits

Complete either the PK-3 Track or the 3-6 Track listed below.

Grade Band PK-3

Course ID	Course	Credits
EDUC 115	Introduction to Early Childhood Education	3 credits
EDUC 224	Early Childhood Curriculum and Methods	4 credits

Grade Band 3-6

Course ID	Course	Credits
EDUC 215	Human Dev and Learning	3 credits
PSYC 296	Educational Psychology	3 credits

Total Program Credits: 63-64

Additional Notes About the A.A. in Elementary Education Program

- A prerequisite course may be needed prior to enrollment in some courses within this program. Specific prerequisite requirements are listed in the Course Description section in the Course Catalog. A summary of the prerequisites is listed below in the Example Course Sequence.
- This program as outlined does NOT meet MTA requirements. A student would need one additional natural science course because SCIE 190 satisfies the A.A. general education requirements but not MTA. If interested in the MTA, students should seek help from an advisor for course selection.
- This program outlines two different tracks, one for students planning to teach grades PK-3 and one for grades 3-6. Complete one track to fulfill the requirements for the A.A. Please consult with an advisor regularly about your specific educational goals.
- Courses taken out of sequence may delay a student's ability to complete the program in a timely manner. Please consult your advisor regularly.
- Each student should submit a graduation application at least one full semester before they plan to graduate.
- This program is subject to change. Students should consult with their advisor for program updates.

Example Course Sequence

The following is a sample of a semester-by-semester approach to completing this program.

FIRST SEMESTER

Courses	Credits	Prerequisites (Minimum Grade of C Required)
BISC 111 Biological Science	4 credits	None
EDUC 101 Introduction to Teaching	3 credits	ENGL 115, ENGL 103W, ENGL 103, ENGL 104, or English test score (Level 2 or higher); concurrent enrollment in ENGL 115 allowed
EDUC 120 Educational Exploration and Planning	1 credit	ENGL 115, ENGL 103W, ENGL 103, ENGL 104, or English test score (Level 2 or higher); concurrent enrollment in ENGL 115 allowed
ENGL 103 or ENGL 103W Freshman English 2 (or with workshop)	3 to 4 credits	ENGL 103W: English test score (Level 2 or higher) ENGL 103: ENGL 115 or English test score (Level 3); concurrent enrollment in ENGL 115 allowed
MATH 128 Contemporary Mathematics	4 credits	AUTO 113, CONS 113, or WELD 113, Math test score (Level 3 or higher), or concurrent enrollment in MATH 128C

SECOND SEMESTER

Courses	Credits	Prerequisites (Minimum Grade of C Required)
EDUC 217 Early Childhood Development	3 credits	ENGL 115, ENGL 103W, ENGL 103, ENGL 104, or English test score (Level 2 or higher); concurrent enrollment in ENGL 115 allowed
EDUC 220 Guiding Children's Social & Emotional Development	4 credits	ENGL 115, ENGL 103W, ENGL 103, ENGL 104, or English test score (Level 2 or higher); concurrent enrollment in ENGL 115 allowed
ENGL 104 Freshman English 3	3 credits	ENGL 103 or ENGL 103W
PSYC 101 General Psychology	3 credits	ENGL 115, ENGL 103W, ENGL 103, ENGL 104, or English test score (Level 2 or higher); concurrent enrollment in ENGL 115 allowed
SCIE 190 Earth Science for Elementary Teachers	3 credits	ENGL 115, ENGL 103W, ENGL 103, ENGL 104, or English test score (Level 2 or higher); concurrent enrollment in ENGL 115 allowed

THIRD SEMESTER

Courses	Credits	Prerequisites (Minimum Grade of C Required)
EDUC 260 Emergent Literacy	3 credits	ENGL 115, ENGL 103W, ENGL 103, ENGL 104, or English test score (Level 2 or higher); concurrent enrollment in ENGL 115 allowed
HIST 230 Michigan History	3 credits	ENGL 115, ENGL 103W, ENGL 103, ENGL 104, or English test score (Level 2 or higher); concurrent enrollment in ENGL 115 allowed
MATH 153 Math for Elementary Teachers 1	4 credits	MATH 128 or Math test score (Level 3 or higher)
SPEE 102 Fundamentals of Public Speaking	3 credits	None
Track Elective	3 credits	See Course Description for details

FOURTH SEMESTER

Courses	Credits	Prerequisites (Minimum Grade of C Required)
EDUC 212 Introduction to Special Education	3 credits	ENGL 115, ENGL 103W, ENGL 103, ENGL 104, or English test score (Level 2 or higher); concurrent enrollment in ENGL 115 allowed
ENGL 251 Children's Literature	3 credits	None
MATH 154 Math for Elementary Teachers 2	4 credits	MATH 153
POSC 201 American Government	3 credits	ENGL 115, ENGL 103W, ENGL 103, ENGL 104, or English test score (Level 2 or higher); concurrent enrollment in ENGL 115 allowed
Track Elective	3-4 credits	See Course Description for details