

**K-5 Licensure Program
Middle School Education Program
Student Handbook**

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K-5 and Middle School Programs Student Handbook

I. Introduction

a. Purpose & references/differences to the GR bulletin

b. Accreditation

The Eriksson College of Education at Austin Peay State University has been accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) for over sixty years. Our last accreditation was in 2021; the next accreditation visit, now conducted by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), will take place in 2026. Accreditation is the seal of approval that verifies quality in educator preparation.

<https://www.apsu.edu/education/>

<https://www.apsu.edu/education/caepdata/annualreportingmeasures.php>

c. Eriksson College of Education Helpful Resources

<https://www.apsu.edu/education/resources.php>

- **Department of Teaching and Learning**

The Department of Teaching and Learning offers degrees in initial licensure programs. As you pursue your potential career as a professional educator, please explore what the Department of Teaching and Learning has to offer in support of your career goal.

<https://www.apsu.edu/education/about-us/teachingandlearning.php>

- **Ready2Teach FAQ/edTPA (Educative Teacher Performance Assessment)**

The edTPA is a preservice assessment process designed by educators to answer the essential question: "Is a new teacher ready for the job?"

The edTPA is designed to measure teacher candidate effectiveness in the classroom by focusing on student learning.

[https://www.apsu.edu/ready2teach/ready2teach-](https://www.apsu.edu/ready2teach/ready2teach-faq#:~:text=The%20Tennessee%20State%20Board%20of,42%20for%20Fall%20semester%202017.)

[faq#:~:text=The%20Tennessee%20State%20Board%20of,42%20for%20Fall%20semester%202017.](https://www.apsu.edu/ready2teach/ready2teach-faq#:~:text=The%20Tennessee%20State%20Board%20of,42%20for%20Fall%20semester%202017.)

d. Student Rights

Anyone enrolling at Austin Peay State University is entitled to all rights granted to him/her by the Constitution of the United States and is entitled to the full protection of the law. Apart from those rights and duties enjoyed by nonstudents, enrollment in the University carries with it special privileges and imposes special responsibilities. The University has established regulations and certain due process procedures essential to an atmosphere of mutual respect which is sensitive to rights of all individuals.

<https://www.apsu.edu/handbook/student-code/student-rights.php>

II. Mission Statement

a. University Mission

Austin Peay State University is mission-driven, community-minded institution that provides transformational experiences through innovative, creative, and scholarly activities. We welcome and inspire an inclusive community of learners to make a positive impact regionally and globally.

b. College of Education Mission

Our goal is to prepare competent, reflective, and caring educators who, while working in collaboration with other professionals, will serve as change agents to foster development and learning in the lives of all learners.

<https://www.apsu.edu/education/about-us/history.php>

c. Department Mission

The Department of Teaching and learning in the Eriksson College of Education, is composed of creative and innovative faculty who are committed to preparing quality teacher candidates who address the needs of local and regional school districts. We promote a diverse student centered progressive curriculum that serves the academic and rigorous demands of the education profession.

d. Program Mission

The K-5 Interdisciplinary Studies Program and Middle School Program of the Eriksson College of Education at Austin Peay State University is designed for candidates who are preparing to teach elementary grades. For candidates seeking licensure, the program consists of a general education core, a major in Interdisciplinary Studies and a minor in Professional Education.

Knowledge: Enables professional educators to use their general and subject area knowledge to enable students to learn and communicate effectively with others. Also enables the use of technological knowledge and collaborative techniques to foster active inquiry, problem solving, and performance skills among learners.

Skill: Enables professional educators to use techniques and strategies to create learning environments that foster student intellectual, social, and personal development, use technology and collaborative learning strategies to foster active inquiry, problem solving, and performance skills among learners, and use reflection and outcome assessments to improve learning experiences.

Disposition: Enables professional educators to create a climate of openness, inquiry, and support by using strategies that develop an atmosphere of acceptance and appreciation for diverse individuals and groups in the larger community. Allows for practice of behaviors that meet ethical and professional standards while striving for continual personal improvement.

III. Policies

a. University Policies

<https://www.apsu.edu/handbook/student-code/policies-guidelines.php>

b. Disposition Policy: Eriksson College of Education

The Eriksson College of Education endeavors to prepare candidates who have the ability to become highly competent professionals in education.

c. Expectations of Candidate Dispositions

All teacher candidates will be provided with the disposition forms during their coursework in the College of Education. Dispositions expected for those in initial programs will be discussed in EDUC 2100/5500 or equivalent course, published in appropriate teacher education documents, and reinforced throughout the program. Candidates in advanced

programs will be provided a form outlining the expected dispositions in their first graduate course. Candidates will be made aware that repeated violations of these dispositions will constitute grounds for the filing of negative disposition forms and the resulting consequences. <https://www.apsu.edu/education/currentstudents/dispositions.php>

Tennessee Code of Ethics

An educator shall strive to help each student realize the student's potential as a worthy and effective member of society. An educator therefore works to stimulate the spirit of inquiry, the acquisition of knowledge and understanding, and the thoughtful formulation of worthy goals. <https://www.apsu.edu/ready2teach/tncodeofethics.pdf>

IV. Program Objectives/Goals

Candidates of the Eriksson College of Education follow a specific degree program, which addresses the Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (InTASC) Model Core Teaching Standards. InTASC is a consortium of state education agencies and national educational organizations dedicated to the reform of the preparation, licensing, and ongoing professional development of teachers. <https://ccsso.org/resource-library/intasc-model-core-teaching-standards>

Standard #1: Learner Development

The teacher understands how learners grow and develop, recognizing that patterns of learning and development vary individually within and across the cognitive, linguistic, social, emotional, and physical areas, and designs and implements developmentally appropriate and challenging learning experiences.

Standard #2: Learning Differences

The teacher uses understanding of individual differences and diverse cultures and communities to ensure inclusive learning environments that enable each learner to meet high standards.

Standard #3: Learning Environments

The teacher works with others to create environments that support individual and collaborative learning, and that encourage positive social interaction, active engagement in learning, and self-motivation.

Standard #4: Content Knowledge

The teacher understands the central concepts, tools of inquiry, and structures of the discipline(s) he or she teaches and creates learning experiences that make these aspects of the discipline accessible and meaningful for learners to assure mastery of the content.

Standard #5: Application of Content

The teacher understands how to connect concepts and use differing perspectives to engage learners in critical thinking, creativity, and collaborative problem solving related to authentic local and global issues.

Standard #6: Assessment

The teacher understands and uses multiple methods of assessment to engage learners in their own growth, to monitor learner progress, and to guide the teacher's and learner's decision making.

Standard #7: Planning for Instruction

The teacher plans instruction that supports every student in meeting rigorous learning goals by drawing upon knowledge of content areas, curriculum, cross-disciplinary skills, and pedagogy, as well as knowledge of learners and the community context.

Standard #8: Instructional Strategies

The teacher understands and uses a variety of instructional strategies to encourage learners to develop deep understanding of content areas and their connections, and to build skills to apply knowledge in meaningful ways.

Standard #9: Professional Learning and Ethical Practice

The teacher engages in ongoing professional learning and uses evidence to continually evaluate his/her practice, particularly the effects of his/her choices and actions on others (learners, families, other professionals, and the community), and adapts practice to meet the needs of each learner.

Standard #10: Leadership and Collaboration

The teacher seeks appropriate leadership roles and opportunities to take responsibility for student learning, to collaborate with learners, families, colleagues, other school professionals, and community members to ensure learner growth, and to advance the profession

V. Curriculum

a. K-5 Program Description and Course Requirements

The K-5 Interdisciplinary Studies Program of the Eriksson College of Education at Austin Peay State University is designed for candidates who are preparing to teach elementary grades. For candidates seeking licensure, the program consists of a general education core, a major in Interdisciplinary Studies and a minor in Professional Education.

<https://www.apsu.edu/programs/undergraduate/education-interdisciplinary-studies-k5.php>

b. Matriculation

Please follow application process for admission into Austin Peay State University found at <http://www.apsu.edu/admissions/applicant/admissions-process.php>.

Department of Teaching and Learning Advising

After declaring a K-5 major, you will be assigned an advisor who is knowledgeable about the program. You will meet with your advisor prior to the beginning of each semester in order to determine your progress and courses to take in order to continue your four-year program. Near the end of each semester you will be entitled to priority advising and can enroll in classes at the earliest possible date based on completed hours. Your advisor will be available to assist you throughout your program.

<https://www.apsu.edu/admissions/admitted/departamental-advisement-and-center.php>

c. Student Insurance Requirements

Required Liability Insurance:

Prior to any field experience candidates need to purchase liability insurance through the Student Teacher Education Association (STEA) or the Professional Educator Association

<https://ims.nea.org/JoinNea/type.do>

<https://www.proedtn.org/page/LiabilityCoverage>

d. Courses/Course sequencing

• **K-5 Licensure Program Concentration 4YP**

In the K-5 concentration you will have a broad-base and comprehensive liberal arts education. In the Martha Dickerson Eriksson College of Education, you will learn the

important skill, pedagogical knowledge, and dispositional requirements for teaching students in the K-5 classroom. Not only will you learn the information and content to be an effective teacher, but you will have extensive hands-on practical experiences in classroom with opportunities to teach children in a variety of grades in small group and whole classroom settings. http://catalog.apsu.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=41&poid=9973

- **Middle School Program Descriptions and Course Requirements**

Middle School Math:

Students will have classes in both mathematics and education. Classes are varied and include subjects such as calculus and statistics. Students will also have opportunities to work in many local schools in various field experience placements.

<https://www.apsu.edu/programs/undergraduate/education-interdisciplinary-studies-6-8-middle-school.php>

Middle School Science:

Students will gain a functional, working knowledge across the various fields of science. They will be afforded opportunities to learn through inquiry and experimentation where the processes of science are emphasized. Additionally, science teacher candidates will learn cutting-edge strategies to engage their future, young students in inquiry and problem-solving with a three-dimensional, constructivist approach to

teaching. <https://www.apsu.edu/programs/undergraduate/education-middle-grades-science.php>

Middle School Social Studies:

Please contact Dr. Adam Attwood at about the middle school social studies program.

attwooda@apsu.edu

Transition Points and Licensure (Undergraduate)

Transition Point Requirements for Teacher Certification

<https://www.apsu.edu/education/undergradmilestones.php>

Printable Transition Point Checklist for Undergrad

<https://www.apsu.edu/education/UGTransitionjan2022.pdf>

Education: Concentration K-5 Licensure

<https://www.apsu.edu/programs/undergraduate/education-interdisciplinary-studies-k-5.php>

Education: Concentration Middle School (6-8) Math

<https://www.apsu.edu/programs/undergraduate/education-interdisciplinary-studies-6-8-middleschool.php>

Education: Concentration Middle School (6-8) Science

<https://www.apsu.edu/programs/undergraduate/education-middle-grades-science.php>

VI: Accreditation

a. Accreditor

The Eriksson College of Education at Austin Peay State University has been accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) for over sixty years. Our last accreditation was in 2021; the next accreditation visit, now conducted by the Council for the

Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), will take place in 2026. Accreditation is the seal of approval that verifies quality in educator preparation.

<https://www.apsu.edu/education/>

<https://www.apsu.edu/education/caepdata/annualreportingmeasures.php>

b. Program and student evaluations and reports, required data collection and publications.

Eriksson College of Education Office of Assessment

IE Resources, CAEP Resources, and Data Collection and Review

<https://www.apsu.edu/education/assessmentoffice.php>

VII: Forms

Required Liability Insurance:

- a. Prior to any field experience candidates need to purchase liability insurance through the Student Teacher Education Association (STEA) or the Professional Educator Association

<https://ims.nea.org/JoinNea/type.do>

<https://www.proedtn.org/page/LiabilityCoverage>

Background Check:

Instructions complete background check

<https://www.apsu.edu/education/currentstudents/docs/SecurityClearancefingerprintinginstructions.pdf>

Security Check Application

<https://www.apsu.edu/education/currentstudents/docs/VECHS.waiver4.pdf>