Applying to the Elementary Education program is a two step process. The first step is submitting an online application. This step may be completed at any point during the application period, ideally as soon as the applicant decides to apply for admission to the Elementary Education program. The second step involves developing and submitting hard copies of application materials, which are detailed below. Students do not need to have all hard copy application materials ready to submit before completing the online portion. In fact, we encourage students to complete the online application portion as early as possible! Both steps must be completed by February 1, 2018, at 4:30 p.m.

Prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to meet with an Education Academic Services/Office of Undergraduate Recruitment and Retention advisor. Phone 608-262-1651 or visit Room 139 Education Building (on Bascom Hill) to make an appointment. Students who are applying as prospective transfers to UW-Madison are also strongly encouraged to meet with an EAS/OURR advisor, either in person or via phone.

Questions about the application itself may be directed to soeadmissions@education.wisc.edu; we will try to respond within 24 hours.

The Elementary Education program is composed of four distinct program options. Detailed information about the Elementary Education options is available in the Guide (http://go.wisc.edu/025892). Applicants are permitted to apply to only two of the four program options. Students applying to two options must indicate their first and second choice of the two options when completing the online application, then submit separate hard copy materials for each option. Each option within Elementary Education requires a statement detailing why the applicant wishes to be admitted to that particular program option. The same supporting materials (i.e., letter of recommendation, essay, resume) may be submitted with each application (although this is not encouraged), or the applicant may choose to provide different information relevant to a particular program option. Each option has its own selection committee and only reviews applications to that option.

Admission to the Elementary Education program is limited and may be competitive. Obtaining or exceeding the minimum eligibility criteria does not guarantee admission. Applicants should carefully review the program admission information available in the Guide (http://go.wisc.edu/025892).

Applicants not currently enrolled on the UW-Madison campus must also submit an application to the Office of Admissions and Recruitment (admissions.wisc.edu) by February 1, 2018, to be considered for Fall 2018 admission to campus.

Notice to Applicants

Effective beginning the 2017-2018 admission cycle, all options within the Elementary Education program will start the professional sequence of coursework in the Fall semester following selection. This is a change from previous years in which two of the four options began in the Spring semester following selection.

Required Application Materials

Step One: Online Application

The online application for the Elementary Education program may be accessed via the School’s Apply to a Program page (http://go.wisc.edu/2ohh71) and must be completed by the February 1, 2018, at 4:30 p.m.

Step Two: Hard Copy Application Materials

Application materials are due on February 1, 2018, at 4:30 p.m.. Applicants choosing to apply to two options within the program are required to submit a separate set of hard copy materials for each option. Applicants must include their full name, student ID number (if a current or former UW-Madison student), and the code
of the relevant program option on every page of printed material. Please do not staple; if necessary, use a paper clip to bind the submitted materials together. The appropriate option codes are:

☀ EC/ESL (Early Childhood/ESL)
☀ MC–EA/ESL (Middle Childhood–Early Adolescence/ESL)
☀ MC–EA/Dual (Middle Childhood–Early Adolescence/Special Education Dual Major)
☀ MC–EA/CF (Middle Childhood–Early Adolescence/Content-Focused Minor)

All materials must be submitted together, with the exception of letters of recommendation if the letter writer plans to email them to the School of Education. Applicants may submit materials in person or by mail to the following address:

Education Academic Services
Attn: Admissions
139 Education Building
1000 Bascom Mall
Madison, WI 53706

Off-Campus Transcripts. Any coursework completed at other institutions is reviewed as part of the application materials for the Elementary Education program. To determine whether it is necessary to submit a transcript, consult the following guidance:

Current UW-Madison students who have transferred credits from another college or university to UW-Madison before September 15, 2017, must indicate any previous institution(s) attended on their online application. However, these students do not need to submit official transcripts as long as the relevant transcripts have already been evaluated by UW-Madison’s Office of Admissions and the appropriate transfer credit has been posted.

Current UW-Madison students who submit transcripts for transfer coursework to the Office of Admissions after September 15, 2017, must also submit official copies of these transcripts to the School of Education with their other hard copy application materials. Students are encouraged to consult their academic advisor with questions about the status of transfer credit.

Prospective transfer students who are also applying to UW-Madison for admission must submit separate official transcripts to the School of Education as part of their program application. Applying to a program in the School of Education and to the UW-Madison campus are completely separate processes; both must be completed.

Test Score Reports. Applicants are required to submit one of the following test results: Praxis I/PPST, Praxis Core, ACT, SAT, or GRE. Praxis I/PPST and Praxis Core scores should be sent directly from Educational Testing Service (ETS) to Education Academic Services. UW-Madison undergraduates can find their ACT and SAT scores in Student Center under the "Academics" tab. Print a copy of your test results and include it with your other application materials. Test scores must be no more than ten (10) years old at the time of application. Find additional information about test requirements via go.wisc.edu/h640hi.

Letter of Recommendation. Students must submit one letter of recommendation for each option to which they apply. This letter should come from a volunteer coordinator, public or private school teacher, university teacher, or formal employer with whom they have interacted. The primary focus of these letters should be on the prospective teacher’s professional competencies. For this reason, a letter from an informal employer, such as a family retaining the applicant’s services as a babysitter, is discouraged. The letter of recommendation may be:

☀ emailed by the recommender to soeadmissions@education.wisc.edu, or
☀ submitted in person or by mail to Education Academic Services.

Résumé. Applicants must provide a bulleted résumé that highlights their experiences with children and/or youth, and other relevant experiences such as studying abroad or proficiency with additional languages.
Essay I. Applicants should provide a statement of no more than 300 words that describes why they wish to be admitted to the particular option of the Elementary Education program to which you are applying. Please note that applicants applying to two options may submit separate essays for each option. (Each option requires a unique set of hard copy materials.)

Essay II. Applicants must choose one of the three topics listed below and write a response that contains no more than 300 words:

- Pick a significant experience that you have had with children and describe how it was a learning experience for you.
- What do you not know about teaching, children, or schools, and hope to learn in the teacher education program? Describe an experience working with children that led you to this conclusion.
- The mission statement of the Elementary Education program can be found below. Please identify a part of this mission statement and describe why it is important to you. You may want to relate this importance to a specific experience working with children or your own experience as a pupil.

Mission Statement of the Elementary Education Program

To provide an intellectually challenging professional program that promotes social justice through multicultural education and critical reflection. This entails educating teacher leaders who:

- are well educated in academic content and dedicated to continued learning;
- recognize the powers, limits, and controversies of particular disciplines;
- understand that identity* shapes all thinking and action: their own, their students’ and that of all those connected to schooling;
- know that institutions like schools have the potential to both perpetuate inequities and effect change in society;
- work for social justice through research-based curricular planning and instructional practices that promote high academic achievement for all students, particularly those who have been historically underserved;
- are responsive to their students’ needs by learning from their teaching, collaborating with other professionals, and changing their practices;
- welcome, recruit and work as partners with families, caregivers and community members; and
- contribute to and benefit from communities of professional practice.

* By identity we mean to include such categorical markers as race, ethnicity, culture, language, socio-economic group, gender, sexual orientation, abilities, religion and experiences.

Essay III (optional). If desired, applicants may explain any extenuating circumstances that have negatively impacted their qualifications for program admission (200 word maximum). This essay is not required and we do not expect most students to submit it.

Application Checklist. This document serves as the cover sheet of your hard copy application materials. Please print a copy and complete the checklist before submitting your materials to Education Academic Services.