

Welcome to the Department of Education!

“Be the change that you wish to see in the world.” Mahatma Gandhi

Welcome to the Education Department at Elizabethtown College and your first step in becoming the educators and school leaders of tomorrow! You are beginning an exciting journey, and this manual is designed to help you navigate the curriculum and assessment requirements for teacher certification in the state of Pennsylvania.

A major in education at Elizabethtown is a demanding yet very rewarding undertaking. Students must excel in challenging coursework in pedagogy, learning theory, cognition, and liberal arts content. They must sustain a 3.0 cumulative GPA to meet the academic criteria required for certification. They are required to repeatedly demonstrate competency in field placement classrooms by working with a variety of students and student needs. It is expected that they exhibit the dispositions of a professional educator as defined by the *PA Code of Conduct* and the department's *Teacher Dispositions Policy*. Finally, students must pass required state assessments and complete a professional portfolio for certification.

The Teacher Preparation Program at Elizabethtown College has a unique focus supported by four pillars – **Professionalism** (as defined by *Danielson's Domains*), **Social Justice**, **Undergraduate Research**, and **Theory into Practice**. These pillars are realized through the curriculum, field experiences, research and service-learning projects with faculty mentors, co-curricular organizations and activities, and invited speaker and film series. These critical components allow pre-service teachers to experience the real issues and educational policies of the twenty-first century classroom and of the system of education more broadly. Through the Tempest Lecture Series and other opportunities, the department sponsors thought-provoking social justice and advocacy events. These issues are further explored in the department's common read selections and related course assignments.

Departmental faculty and staff want you to begin your career at Elizabethtown with a clear understanding of these expectations and responsibilities for your chosen 4-year certification program – *Early Childhood (PK-4)*, *Early Childhood/Special Education*, *Middle Level (4-8)*, *Secondary (7-12)*, or *PK-12 (Music or Spanish)*. All candidates also have the option of earning the ESL Program Specialist certificate in addition to their primary certification area and applying to 4+1 Master's Program in Special Education which offers dual certification in a general area and special education for grades PK-12 in a five year program of study.

Please contact me with questions on these expectations, policies, and procedures.



Dr. Peter R. Licon
Chair, Department of Education