

## Teacher Education Handbook Overview

The Conceptual Framework is the document which guides the vision and mission of teacher education at Millersville.

### Four levels to your certification program:

#### **Level 1 Introductory Level Education Courses:**

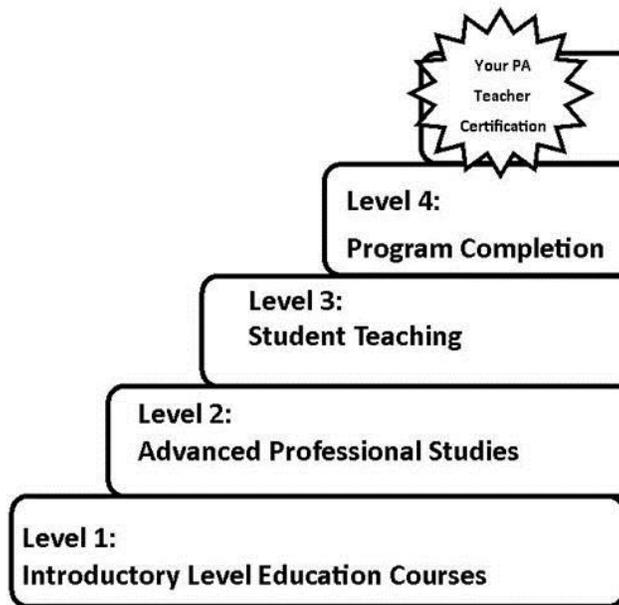
courses typically taken prior to earning 60 credits.

**Level 2 Advanced Professional Studies (APS):** formal admission to teacher education. There are several requirements you must meet for APS admission. These criteria are listed on your Degree Audit. Review your Degree Audit to see which of the criteria you have completed. APS status is required for most

upper level education courses. Please consult the APS policy for the specific requirements and for the list of courses which require APS status. A very important requirement for undergraduate BSE students is passing the pre-service testing requirement (math, reading, writing). There are 5 different ways to meet this requirement: SAT, ACT, Praxis Core, PAPA, or combining scores from these tests. The requirements are complex, so please consult the Five Pre-Service Testing Options page and speak with an advisor. Millersville subscribes to a service to help you study for these tests and often provides tutoring sessions.

**Level 3 Student Teaching:** capstone for your program. Please submit your “yellow card” notice of intent to enter student teaching to the student teaching office one year ahead of your intended student teaching semester.

**Level 4 Program Completion:** completing program requirements and applying for certification. During your student teaching semester the process for applying for recommendation and use of the Pennsylvania Department of Education TIMS system will be explained. In addition to completing coursework, you must pass the appropriate content area tests (such as the Biology Content test for Biology teacher candidates). Some content areas must also take the Fundamental Subject Content Knowledge test. Please consult the testing page to take the right test for your content area.



### Non-Course Program and Certification Requirements

- Pass Basic Skills Testing – a requirement for APS status and for taking your upper-level education courses.
- Clearances – you must have clearances that are good through the end of any semester that you are enrolled in courses with field experience. Please consult the Clearance Policy for Field Experience policy and the Clearance Infraction Policy if appropriate.
- Professionalism – you are expected to demonstrate behavior appropriate to the profession throughout your program. You will be formally reviewed for professionalism before entry to APS and before entry to student teaching. Also, if important concerns arise and cannot be addressed

informally there is a formal review process that could be initiated at any time during your program. Please consult the Professionalism policy and the Professionalism Assessment.

- PDE-430 – this is the evaluation required by PDE during student teaching. You must not earn any unsatisfactory ratings in any of the 4 domains of this assessment in order for Millersville to recommend you for certification.
- Content area tests – these tests are not required for program completion (with the specific exception of World Language majors), but are required for your Pennsylvania certification.
- Additional major assessments in courses – such as successful completion of field experiences must also be successfully completed.

### **Field Experiences**

Each program has a different set of field experiences. You should discuss your specific program with your advisor. In general, however, the Pennsylvania Department of Education defines four stages of field experience that are be part of every teacher education program. The four stages at Millersville are:

**Stage 1 and 2:** Foundations Level field experience. These are field experiences in courses prior to APS admission. They will focus primarily on observation and applying theory to practice.

**Stage 3: Professional Bloc:** an in-depth field experience of 100 – 250 hours typically occurring the semester before student teaching. Professional bloc courses require APS admission. Some programs, such as the dual major in Special Education and Early Childhood have more than one stage 3 field experience.

**Stage 4 Student Teaching:** a full semester capstone experience with substantial responsibilities for preparation, instruction, establishing a positive classroom environment, and demonstrating professionalism.