

# Application Procedures – M.A. leading to Initial Teaching Certification

## Deadlines:

### ***English Education Cohort***

October 1 for Spring Term starting in January

### ***Mathematics Education Cohort***

October 1 for Spring Term starting in January

### ***Science Education Cohort***

October 1 for Spring Term starting in January

### ***Elementary Education Cohort***

February 1 for Summer Term starting in May

### ***World Language Teaching & ELL***

Applications are accepted year-round and are due by October 1 for the Spring term and by February 11 for the Fall & Summer terms.

## Minimum Recommended Requirements:

- Undergraduate GPA: minimum of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Fit between applicants' goals/interests and the department's ability to address those goals and interests

## International Applicants:

- TOEFL score of at least iBT 79; all subscores must be at least in the Intermediate/Fair range. If the IELTS is taken in place of the TOEFL, all subscores must be a minimum of 6.5. Applicants taking the TOEFL or the IELTS may be asked to take part in an online interview.
  - The equivalent of at least one year of full-time teaching experience is required for consideration.
1. All Applicants must apply to the [UNL Office of Graduate Studies](#). Master Degree Applicants should select "[\*Teaching, Learning & Teacher Ed - Master Programs\*](#)" as their degree objective. If you are seeking initial teaching certification as well, you must do a second application for the endorsement after completing the MA application.
  2. Once your application is complete with the Office of Graduate Studies, you will receive an email to apply to the TLTE department through [GAMES](#).

It is desirable that applicants for degree programs satisfy all admission requirements one month before the department's deadline to ensure timely arrival of the corresponding documentation. The Department's Admissions Committee cannot consider your file until these items have been received.

### **Applicant Checklist for the M.A. Leading to Initial Teaching Certification**

Completed [Application to UNL Office of Graduate Studies](#), including transcripts and fees two weeks before department application deadline

#### MA Application Requirements:

Application Essay\*

Resumé

Three letters of recommendation\*\*

#### Endorsement Application Requirements:

Successfully complete a Criminal Background Check ([directions](#))\*\*\*

Successfully complete the [Praxis® Core Academic Skills for Educators \(Core\)](#)\*\*\*\*

Completed form (submit on the endorsement application) for State of Nebraska required coursework for either [Elementary Endorsement](#), OR [English Endorsement](#), OR [World Language Teaching/ELL Endorsement](#), OR [Math Endorsement](#), OR [Science Endorsement](#)

Submit ACTFL OPI certificate (World Language Teaching applicants only)

#### Application Essay and Letters of Recommendation

The Graduate Admissions Committee for the review of master degree application files look for evidence of applicants':

- Academic strengths and readiness to do graduate study.
- Professional and academic goals and whether these align with the goals of the Department.

In addition to the minimum requirements listed above, transcripts and resume, the Graduate Admissions Committee closely examines your letters of recommendation and your application essay.

\*Application Essay. The Graduate Admissions Committee looks closely at the applicant's goals in the application essay for further evidence of your meeting the admissions criteria. A well-written essay is crucial to admissions decisions. This application essay is a concise statement in which you address clearly why you want to pursue graduate studies at the master's level at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In this essay you should address clearly:

1. Your academic and/or professional goals and how the master degree in Teaching, Learning, and Teacher Education will enable you to meet these.
2. Your academic strengths, with specific attention to your background in higher education and how this qualifies you for graduate study at a major university.
3. Any professional experience, knowledge, and skills you possess and how these further qualify you for graduate study at a major university.

*This statement should be between 700-1000 words.*

\*\*Letters of Recommendation. The application requires three letters of recommendation. The Graduate Admissions Committee considers letters an important part of any application. You should solicit letters that directly address your readiness and qualification to do graduate study in Teaching, Learning and Teacher Education. Letters should come from those who are familiar with your academic and professional work, such as former professors, employers or administrators. *Do not include letters from friends, family members, or your own high school teachers.* Each of these will be disregarded in the review and detract from your application.

\*\*\*The Nebraska Department of Education and Nebraska school districts require that College of Education and Human Sciences students who plan to pursue a degree in an education-related field, athletic training majors, and any other UNL students who enroll in CEHS courses that involve practicum experiences in the schools are required to undergo a formal screening process related to criminal history through *One Source*. *Consequently, a background check is a pre-requisite for application to our programs.*

\*\*\*\*The Nebraska Department of Education Competency Requirement

It is now required for admission that you take the Praxis® Core Academic Skills for Educators (Core), which replaces the Pre-Professional Skills Test or CORE. This is a minimal knowledge competency examination that the Nebraska State Department of Education requires of all applicants for admission to any teacher education program. Students need documentation of proficiency in the 3 areas of *reading, writing and mathematics*. Successful completion of the Core tests meets this requirement. You must successfully pass this test before the application deadline. Scores must be sent directly from ETS to UNL (institutional code 6877) and may take up to 6 weeks to be reported. It

is preferable that you take the test 4-6 weeks before the application deadline so that your official scores can be included in your application.

You are allowed to re-take the CORE once within any calendar month. Please plan accordingly to allow adequate time.

Only completed application files will be considered for admission. It is the applicant's responsibility to be certain that all materials are submitted and received prior to the deadline dates.

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