Pre-Early Childhood Helpful Hints

All students declaring education as their major come into the College of Education as pre-education students. Students remain a pre-education student until they complete a series of initial requirements for the College of Education which allow them to be admitted to candidacy, the first step in becoming an education student at Armstrong.

1) Students are encouraged to take the following classes listed below in the first three to four semesters of admission to Armstrong as they are the courses required to be admitted to candidacy. It is highly recommended that students take EDUC 2110 prior to taking EDUC 2120 and EDUC 2130.
   - ENGL 1101
   - ENGL 1102
   - One MATH course in AREA A (MATH 1001, MATH 1111 or MATH 1113)
   - MATH 2008 (you must take one of the math classes listed above before you can take MATH 2008).
   - EDUC 2110
   - EDUC 2120
   - EDUC 2130 has a 30 hour field experience and requires a background check ($6.50 or $12.00 if married) and Professional Liability Insurance (an additional cost).

2) All of the classes listed above must be passed with a grade C or better.

3) Courses in the CORE that are suggested for ECE students to take that will assist them with passing their future GACE content exams in ECE:
   - GEOG 1100 (Global Perspectives) and GEOG 2120 (Global Perspectives and History or Social Sciences)
   - ECON 2105 or ECON 2106 (Social Sciences and History or Social Sciences)
   - HIST 2111 or HIST 2112 (History or Social Sciences)
   - MATH 2200 (Elementary Statistics)

4) Students must either exempt the GACE Program Admission Tests or pass the GACE Program Admission Tests which includes three sections (Reading, Writing and Math).
   *Students can be exempt from the GACE Program Admission Tests if they have one of the following scores listed below:
     - SAT Score of 1000 (Verbal and Math combined)
     - ACT Score of 43 (English and Math combined)
   *If a student is not exempt from the Program Admission Tests, we recommend students take the exam after they have taken English 1101 and 1102 and their required math course. Information about the GACE Program Admission exams can be found at www.gace.ets.org. This website has resources and study material available to you.

5) Students must complete the Georgia Educator Ethics Exam prior to applying for candidacy which costs $30.00.

6) In order to be admitted to candidacy, students must have a 2.5 overall GPA. If a student does not have the required 2.5 GPA, they will not be admitted to the College of Education as this is a state requirement. Students, who are having difficulty maintaining a 2.5, should seek immediate assistance from their academic advisor. Students should also have a backup plan in mind if they are not able to be admitted to the College of Education.
7) All pre-education students must be admitted into the program after completing **60 hours or they will be asked to change their major**.

8) **Admission to Candidacy occurs at three key points during the academic year**: There will be candidacy meetings held each semester to review how to complete the candidacy packets and students are required to attend to complete their pre-service paperwork. When students apply for candidacy, they are issued a pre-service certificate. This is the first step in the tiered certification system of the state of Georgia.

   - September 15th for the spring semester
   - February 15th for the summer semester
   - May 15th for the fall semester

*Students can apply to be admitted by the above due dates if they are working on completing a requirement for candidacy during the application semester, but it is very important for students to take the required classes or the GACE Program Admission Test when suggested.*

9) **All pre-education students are required to be advised during the fall and spring semesters.** Advisement for the spring and summer semester occurs in October and advisement for the fall semester occurs in March. Summer classes are available but they may not run if they have low enrollment. Information about the advisement process will be sent to the student’s university e-mail address.

10) **The College of Education does not offer on-line courses for our undergraduate Education degree programs.** Most programs have a set rotation schedule for classes in the major. Deviating from the recommended schedule could delay a student’s graduation.

11) **Students should check their Armstrong e-mail daily.** The Armstrong e-mail serves as the universities official way to communicate with students. Important information from all offices on campus comes to the assigned e-mail address. Students can forward their Armstrong e-mail to another e-mail address. Information about this process can be found at [http://www.armstrong.edu/Departments/cis_training/cis_training_forward_google_mail_to_another_email](http://www.armstrong.edu/Departments/cis_training/cis_training_forward_google_mail_to_another_email)

12) **Students should sign up for the College of Education blog at www.coeblog.armstrong.edu.** The blog relays important information from the College of Education about deadlines, events, workshops and other important announcements.

13) **Students should keep all advisement materials in a designated folder so they are aware of their program of study and the correct classes needed for their designated major.**

14) **Your Academic Advisor is a valuable resource.**

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**Contact Information**

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**Department of Secondary, Adult, & Physical Education**

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We are excited that you have chosen Armstrong and the College of Education. We look forward getting to know you, assisting you with your academic program of study and seeing you graduate as a successful teacher!