Early Childhood Education
Teaching Certification (Grades Pre K-4) (47 credits)
Teaching Certification (Grades Pre K-4) with Master of Education (65 credits)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS IN BRIEF
Alvernia University is a Franciscan university rooted in the Catholic and liberal arts traditions, dedicated to the ideals of service in the helping professions. Our rich heritage of service and strong faith resonates in contemporary ways in our campus life and academic programs. Alvernia University's graduate programs are designed for the focused working professional who places equal value on intellectual achievement and professional growth. Our faculty and staff are committed to teaching, guiding, and supporting our students in all aspects of their experience at Alvernia University, from course selection and scheduling, to connecting with peers and colleagues.

The Early Childhood Education Teaching Certification (Grades Pre K-4) is dedicated to providing instruction in educational theory balanced with current classroom practices. The program focuses on a values-centered approach toward the preparation of caring, uniquely-qualified candidates to address the needs of diverse populations in today's schools. The Early Childhood Education curriculum prepares students to teach in grades Pre K through four and have been developed to reflect the general standards and specific program guidelines prescribed by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Students can also choose to pursue their Master of Education degree after they complete teaching certification coursework at Alvernia.

ADMISSION
Students are eligible for admission to the Early Childhood Education Teaching Certification (Grades Pre K-4) program when the following criteria have been met:

1. Transcripts from prior universities indicating
   - a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher in all completed undergraduate and any graduate coursework
   - Six credit hours of undergraduate mathematics at the 101 level or higher
   - Three credit hours of undergraduate British or American literature
   - Three credit hours of English composition

2. Completion of Graduate application for admission including all supporting documentation

BACKGROUND CHECKS AND CLEARANCES
Candidates for teaching certification are required to have current Act 34 (PA Child Abuse), Act 151 (PA Criminal Background), and Act 114 (FBI Fingerprinting) clearances on file prior to all fieldwork experiences. It is strongly recommended that upon acceptance, applicants begin the process of obtaining these screenings and present the appropriate documents to Alvernia University’s Education Department. In addition, a clear tuberculosis screening must be on file during the student teaching placement.

CAREER SUCCESS
At Alvernia we measure our success by our graduates’ personal and professional satisfaction, and by the ways they contribute to the greater good in all areas of society. Our graduates are employed in virtually all schools in Berks County, and in many schools throughout the Middle Atlantic region. No matter what your aspirations and dreams, we’ll give you the tools and support to help you thrive.
CURRICULUM OVERVIEW:
Note: Up to 6 graduate credits earned at another institution may be accepted for the Alvernia equivalent below at the discretion of the department.

Early Childhood Education Teaching Certification (Grades Pre K-4):
MED 501 Standards-based Planning & Instruction*    3 credits
MED 502 Development & Learning in Young Children*    3 credits
MED 505 Introduction to Special Needs Students*    3 credits
MED 515 Differentiated Instruction in Inclusive Classrooms   3 credits
MED 522 Practicum I (30 hours)      1 credit
MED 523 Practicum II (30 hours)      1 credit
MED 527 Teaching Literature through the Arts with Young Learners  3 credits
MED 540 Assessment & Evaluation in Today's Schools     3 credits
MED 545 Social Development & Behavior Support in Inclusive Classrooms  3 credits
MED 548 Meeting the Needs of English Language Learners    3 credits
MED 565 Teaching Social Studies in Early Elementary Settings  3 credits
MED 568 Teaching Science in Early Elementary Settings  3 credits
MED 600 Language & Literacy in Cross-cultural Settings  3 credits
MED 625 Teaching Math to Early Elementary Learners  3 credits
MED 668 Pre-Student Teaching Practicum (70 hours)     1 credit
MED 670 Student Teaching     6 credits
MED 672 Student Teaching Seminar: Professional & Legal Topics for Today's Teachers  2 credits
Total Credits in Teaching Certificate Program   47 credits

*These classes are to be taken prior to those listed below them.

Additional Requirements for Master of Education
COR 520 Ethics & Moral Leadership     3 credits
MED 518 Quantitative Research Methods    3 credits
MED 520 Educators as Researchers (Pre-requisite: MED 518)  3 credits
MED 610 School Law & Social Advocacy  3 credits
MED 680 Research Seminar (Pre-requisite: MED 520)   3 credits
MED XXX Elective     3 credits
Total Additional Credits in M.Ed. Program   18 credits

LOCATIONS
Students can choose to take classes where and when it is most convenient. This program is offered on campus at our Reading and Pottsville locations.

CONTACT INFORMATION
School of Graduate Studies
Phone: 1.888.ALVERNIA Ext. 6 (1.888.258.3764/610.796.5187)
graduate@alvernia.edu
www.alvernia.edu