

**Concordia University Wisconsin
School of Education
Accelerated Elementary Teacher Certification Program**

How long does the program take?

For most candidates, the program would take **twenty-two months**, or just under two years. Cohorts will be launched in the fall of each year in order to align with the spring semester of student teaching. Classes would meet **one evening a week** from 4:30-8:30pm, and **seven Saturday sessions** will be included during the sequence of curriculum and methods courses.

What are the candidate requirements for admission?

There are seven candidate requirements for admission:

1. **A completed application which includes two letters of recommendation and a personal essay** on the topic “Why I Want to Be a Teacher.” The essay should be one page (500-word maximum) and will be reviewed for content, syntax, and orthography.
2. **A cumulative GPA of 2.75** in all previous coursework (including graduate coursework, if applicable) is required.
3. **An earned bachelor of arts or bachelor of science degree** from an accredited college or university (transcripts must be submitted to verify this) is a prerequisite.
4. **A transcript review** will be conducted by the Teacher Certification Program Coordinator. The equivalent of six credits in each of four broad subject areas (language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies) needs to be evident. Moreover, PI34 requires that this background specifically incorporate five key attributes:
 - a. written and oral communication
 - b. fine arts
 - c. biological and physical sciences with at least one lab experience
 - d. the humanities, including literature
 - e. western and non-western history

In order to gain acceptance into the program, only two “gaps” may exist within this requirement. Students in the program may take additional coursework to address those deficits concurrently with the program.

5. Participants must have passed all three areas of the **Praxis I (PPST)** as a condition of admission. This is a standardized test similar to the SAT or ACT and is an indication of minimum competency in math, reading, and writing. It is

offered several times during the year at testing sites (see www.ets.org/praxis). Computer-based testing sites may be found by selecting “computer-based testing” on the ETS website. The Prometric Testing Center in Madison also offers this exam. Their phone number is 608.231.6270. Be sure to have your official score report sent to Concordia University – Madison, school code 9038.

There are predetermined passing scores:

	Written Test	Computer-Based Test
Mathematics	173	318
Writing	174	320
Reading	175	322

6. Each participant must consent in writing to a **criminal background check**. This consent form will be filled out at Orientation.

All application materials may be sent directly to Brigid Patterson, Program Coordinator; Concordia University Wisconsin; 2909 Landmark Place, Suite 101; Madison, WI 53713. You may also contact Brigid at brigid.patterson@cuw.edu or 608.276.8000.

7. Once the preceding requirements have been met, all program candidates must be approved by the faculty of the School of Education of Concordia University Wisconsin.

The program coordinator will notify individual applicants by letter regarding acceptance or non-acceptance into the program. If an applicant is accepted, the letter will indicate the cohort starting date and other relevant details.

What are the expectations for program participants?

Once accepted into the program, participants will be held to achievement and attendance standards. A minimum cumulative **GPA of 2.75** must be carried at all times. If a student’s academic performance is not satisfactory, the program director will meet with the student. At that time, the director may remove the student from the program or place the student on probation for the duration of one course. Students may not be absent for more than two sessions in any eight-session course. All one- and two-session courses and Saturday sessions will be digitally recorded to ensure completion in the event of student absence. Student **attendance will be reviewed** at each Assessment Benchmark (see below). If a participant’s overall attendance falls below 80%, the student will meet with the program director to formulate an action plan.

Throughout the program, benchmark assessment points would also exist to ensure proper matriculation throughout the program:

Assessment Benchmark I

Portfolio I must be completed before the C&M courses are begun. The portfolio is a synthesis of academic artifacts with the eleven standards of Concordia's teacher education programs. Portfolios are reviewed by the program director. The portfolio process will be overviewed in the program orientation. In addition, **all clinical hours** must be completed by this point. Preservice, or clinical, hours are a requirement of the state of Wisconsin and represent an important part of the traditional education programs at Concordia. Students would be made aware of clinical sites and requirements during the program orientation. Field notes and evaluations must be submitted by participants for each clinical experience completed. Students accepted into the program may complete clinical experiences prior to the start of program coursework. Please contact the program director for further information.

Assessment Benchmark II

Portfolio II must be completed before the student teaching experience. This review session will also be conducted under the direction of education faculty. In addition, the **Praxis II** test must be passed in order to student teach. Finally, prior to student teaching, a second **criminal background screening** will be conducted on each candidate.

Assessment Benchmark III

Students will complete two nine-week placements of student teaching: one in an elementary setting (grades 1-5) and one in a middle-school setting (grades 6-8). University supervisors will make **three visits to each placement**.

Elementary-Level Student Teaching	3 credits
Middle-Level Student Teaching	3 credits

During the student teaching semester, program participants will attend regular seminars. Seminars will occur monthly and each seminar will begin at 4:30 p.m.

The final portfolio evaluation, Portfolio III, will occur during these seminar sessions. Each participant will participate in an **individual Portfolio III** session with either the program director or the program assistant.

Students **may be able to work full-time** up until the required semester of student teaching. Because the program is not a graduate program, all student teaching experiences would be traditional in scope; internships will not be available. Students have the option of deferring the student teaching semester if all other program requirements have been met.

Do I need to have a licensable minor course of study?

A licensable minor is strongly encouraged, particularly for those students whose bachelor's degree holds a strong connection to one of the licensable core subject areas. At the time of admission, a transcript review will determine in which area(s), if any, a person is most eligible. Any additional coursework required for the licensable minor would be the responsibility of the student, both in terms of time and tuition. The program design does not include formally a minor course of study.

Wisconsin State Statute PI 34 does not require a licensable minor. While program participants who intend to work in the public system or at the middle-school level are strongly encouraged to obtain a licensable minor, such a minor is not a requirement in order to receive initial licensure from the state of Wisconsin.

What does it cost the student?

The tuition cost for the post-baccalaureate Elementary Certification program is **\$330/credit**. (Tuition increases could occur with Concordia's fiscal year cycle.) The entire program is **forty-five (45) credits** long, which translates into a total program cost (2005-06 rate) of **\$14,850**. Program participants must also purchase all of the course texts separately.

If you need to apply for financial aid, you may apply online at www.fafsa.gov. Concordia's school code is 003842.

Where will the program take place?

The program will take place at the **Madison campus**. Classes will be held from 4:30-8:30 p.m.

How soon will this start?

The first cohort will launch in **fall, 2007**. Cohort size will be limited to twenty (20) participants so interested applicants should not delay.

If you have questions or seek additional information, please contact Brigid Patterson, Program Coordinator, at brigid.patterson@cuw.edu or 608.276.8000.