

**SCIENCE EDUCATION**  
INFORMATION ON ADMISSIONS FOR THE EDUCATION SPECIALIST PROGRAM

**Application Procedures**

Applicants must submit the following items in order to be considered for the Education Specialist Program:

- 1.) **Graduate School Application.** Applicants who have never been enrolled at the University of Missouri-Columbia must submit their *Application for Graduate Admission* to the Learning, Teaching, and Curriculum (LTC) Graduate Studies Office (303 Townsend Hall). International applicants who have never been enrolled at the University of Missouri-Columbia must submit the *International Student Application* to the International Admissions Office, 230 Jesse Hall. All applicants who have been enrolled at the University before as a graduate student and/or have been enrolled through extension must submit a *Request to Re-Enroll* to the LTC Graduate Office. Please be sure to indicate *Education Specialist* as the degree program *Science Education* as the academic major.
- 2.) **Official Transcripts.** Official transcripts of all previous college work at institutions other than UMC, undergraduate and graduate, should be sent directly to the LTC Graduate Office. UMC alumni and those who have taken classes here before may submit a *Student Copy* of their UMC transcripts with their application. Applicants who are currently enrolled at the University or who are unsure of their status should check with the LTC Graduate Office for appropriate application forms.
- 3.) **The Personal Data Sheet** includes pertinent biographical information, especially professional experience and the name of the Science Education faculty member with whom you have been in contact. *Contact with a faculty member to discuss advanced graduate work is a requirement for admission consideration.*
- 4.) **A Statement of Purpose** (usually around 500 words) in which you summarize your professional goals, including career objectives, research interests, your motivation for advanced graduate work and other pertinent information.
- 5.) **Letters of Recommendation:** You must submit at least **three** letters of reference, which attest to your professional competence, academic preparation, and potential for graduate work. Ideally, two letters should be from a college or university professor who can discuss your academic abilities, and one should be from an administrator or colleague who can describe authoritatively your professional experience and potential.
- 6.) **Graduate Record Examination (GRE)\* scores:** In compliance with the Graduate School of the University of Missouri-Columbia, all students are required to have on file scores of the GRE. *Applications will not be considered without these scores.*
- 7.) **Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)\* scores:** Students whose native language is not English must submit scores on a TOEFL administered within the last two years.

Please feel free to submit any other materials, which you feel, would give a clearer picture of your qualifications. The Science Education Admissions Committee evaluates the credentials of each applicant. As soon as your file is complete, it will be referred to the committee at their next scheduled meeting.

## Education Specialist Admissions Criteria

Admissions to Educational Specialist Program in Science Education will be based upon the following criteria:

1. Graduate grade point average 3.0 or above overall; undergraduate grade point average 3.0 or above overall, with science content course grade point average 2.5 or above.
2. GRE scores taken within the last five years reflecting a Preferred combined score of 950 or better on the Verbal and Quantitative sections.
3. A minimum of three years full-time appropriate teaching or professional experience in pre K – 16 science education.
4. A minimum of three letters of recommendation, which on the whole, clearly reflect professional success and predict academic success at the advanced graduate level.
5. Statement of purpose indicating clearly that the proposed doctorate is appropriate to the applicant's professional aspirations.
6. For students whose native language is not English, a score of 550 or better on a TOEFL taken within the past two years. Ideally, the TOEFL will be taken 6-9 months prior to the term in which the student wishes to start his/her program.
7. Correspondence with one of the Science Education faculty members in the proposed area of concentration prior to submitting an application. ***This contact is ultimately a requirement for admission.***

All requirements implicit in the above statement must be completed before consideration of an applicant for admission. The LTC Department cannot assure admission to all applicants who meet minimum standards specified for the degree program. Resource constraints do not permit the admission of all qualified applicants.

A committee of faculty reviews the credentials of all applicants. It is the responsibility of this committee to exercise professional judgment related to the criteria which applicants must meet in order to be considered for admission to the program. The committee frequently must use its judgment to discern from among a number of applicants those individuals who are judged to have the greatest potential for program success and ultimate contribution to the profession. Membership in under-represented groups will be a special consideration with regards to admission by the committee.

\*For further information about the GRE or TOEFL, contact Testing, 205A Parker Hall, University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, MO 65211 or call them at (573) 882-4801 or (573) 884-0911. You can also receive information about the GRE or TOEFL from Education Testing Service, Box 955, Princeton, NJ 08540

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