

Education

Degree Type

Associate of Arts

Program Description

The Education Associate of Arts (A.A.) degree is designed to help any student easily transfer their associate degree credits from Penn Highlands to a bachelor's level, non-PA State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) institution for elementary or secondary education. This program provides students with the knowledge to apply general education theory and practice to create effective learning environments and interactions for students of all ages.

Elementary Education Track

An associate degree focusing on elementary education is designed to provide aspiring educators with foundational knowledge and skills essential for teaching young children in grades K-6. This two-year program offers a balanced curriculum that includes courses in child development, educational psychology, and curriculum planning. Students are introduced to effective teaching strategies and classroom management techniques tailored to younger learners. The degree serves as a preparatory step toward a bachelor's degree, which is typically required for teaching licensure. Through this program, graduates gain both theoretical insights and practical experience, setting the groundwork for a rewarding career in elementary education.

Secondary Education Track

An associate degree focusing on secondary education provides an essential foundation for those aspiring to become high school educators. This two-year program offers a comprehensive introduction to teaching, equipping students with the critical skills and knowledge necessary to inspire and educate future generations. The degree serves as a vital stepping stone towards a bachelor's degree, enabling seamless progression into further studies and eventual licensure as a professional teacher. Tailored coursework covers general education requirements alongside focused studies in educational psychology and classroom management, preparing graduates for both the theoretical and practical aspects of a teaching career.

Career Opportunities

Graduates of this program will be prepared for transfer to a bachelor's degree granting college or university offering an education degree; however, the associate degree could be utilized right after graduation in the field of:

- Preschool Teacher
- Teacher's Aide/Instructional Assistant
- Childcare Center Worker/Educational Director
- Paraprofessional Educator
- Substitute Teacher (with additional certification)
- Special Education Aide
- Before and After-School Program Coordinator
- Head Start Program Staff
- Early Intervention Assistant
- Nanny or In-Home Childcare Provider

- Library Assistant
- Youth Program Coordinator
- Educational Sales Representative
- Recreation Center Staff
- Family Support Worker
- Behavior Health Technician
- Ameri-Corps Teaching Assistant

Program Objectives

Upon completion of the program, the student will be able to:

- Demonstrate sound educational principles in regard to the learning behavior of children and adolescents based on educational theory and psychology.
- Demonstrate the integration of diverse educational principals in curriculum.
- Apply sound educational principles to classroom practice.
- Demonstrate professional educational communication skills through written, oral, and electronic methods.

Students should consider these factors before enrolling into this program:

1. This degree program requires that all students obtain a current Pennsylvania Criminal Record Check (Act 34), Child Abuse History Clearance (Act 151), and Federal Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) (ACT 114). Students are **REQUIRED** to have these clearances submitted to the Registrar's Office by the final day of their first semester. If students fail to have clearances submitted by that time, they will be removed from the program.
2. A 3.0 cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) is required to graduate with this degree.
3. A grade of "C" or higher is required in order for classes to be eligible for transfer.

Obtaining the Degree

Students must be able to meet all of the following requirements in order to graduate from this program:

- Matriculate into the program.
- Maintain a 3.0 cumulative grade point average.
- Earn a grade of "C" or higher in all required courses.
- Satisfactorily complete all degree requirements, including General Education and Major Requirements of the degree.

General Education Requirements

Course Code	Title	Credits
ECE 105	Education Essentials	1
COM 101	Public Speaking	3
ENG 110	English Composition I**	3
ENG 200	English Composition II: Studies in Literature**	3
PSY 100	General Psychology**	3
	Elective - Math	3
	Elective - Value & Ethics	3
	Elective - Cultural Awareness and Diverse Perspectives	3
	Elective - Math/Science	3-4
	Elective - Humanities or Social Science	3
	Elective - Science 3 or 4 Credits	3-4
	Elective - Open	3
	Elective - Open	3
	Elective - Open	3
	Elective - Open	3
	Elective - Open	3

Major Requirements

Course Code	Title	Credits
EDU 120	Technology for Teaching	3
EDU 225	Teaching English Language Learners	3
EDU 230	Children with Special Needs	3
ENG 205	Research Writing	3
PSY 120	Introduction to Educational Psychology	3

Students are encouraged to work with their Faculty Advisor to determine which pathway of education their career goal will be focused on to then choose the correct electives for that goal.

Total Credits	61-63
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Course Sequencing

Elementary Education Fall 1

Course Code	Title	Credits
ECE 105	Education Essentials	1
ENG 110	English Composition I**	3
COM 101	Public Speaking	3
	Elective - Value & Ethics	3
ECE 110	Child Development	3
ECE 101	Introduction to Early Childhood Education	3

Elementary Education Spring 1

Course Code	Title	Credits
ENG 200	English Composition II: Studies in Literature**	3
	Elective - Cultural Awareness and Diverse Perspectives	3
PSY 120	Introduction to Educational Psychology	3
	Elective - Open	3
	Elective - Open	3

Elementary Education Fall 2

Course Code	Title	Credits
	Elective - Humanities or Social Science	3
PSY 100	General Psychology**	3
	Elective - Science 3 or 4 Credits	3-4
EDU 120	Technology for Teaching	3
	Elective - Math (MAT 126, MAT 145, MAT 200)	3

Elementary Education Spring 2

Course Code	Title	Credits
ENG 205	Research Writing	3
EDU 225	Teaching English Language Learners	3
EDU 230	Children with Special Needs	3
	Elective - Math or Science (3-4 credits)	3-4
	Elective - Open	3

Secondary Education Fall 1

Course Code	Title	Credits
ECE 105	Education Essentials	1
ENG 110	English Composition I**	3
COM 101	Public Speaking	3
	Elective - Value & Ethics	3
	Elective - Open	3
	Elective - Open	3

Secondary Education Spring 1

Course Code	Title	Credits
ENG 200	English Composition II: Studies in Literature**	3
	Elective - Cultural Awareness and Diverse Perspectives	3
PSY 120	Introduction to Educational Psychology	3
	Elective - Open	3
	Elective - Open	3

Secondary Education Fall 2

Course Code	Title	Credits
	Elective - Humanities or Social Science	3
PSY 100	General Psychology**	3
	Elective - Science 3 or 4 Credits	3-4
EDU 120	Technology for Teaching	3
	Elective - Math (MAT 126, MAT 145, MAT 200)	3

Secondary Education Spring 2

Course Code	Title	Credits
ENG 205	Research Writing	3
EDU 225	Teaching English Language Learners	3
EDU 230	Children with Special Needs	3
	Elective - Math or Science (3-4 credits)	3-4
	Elective - Open	3