Students pursuing elementary, middle grades, or secondary licensure must gain formal admission to the Teacher Education Program in the College of Education, Health and Human Sciences. Students should make arrangements to take a Pre-Professional Skills Test (Praxis: PPST) and a Speech and Hearing screening at UT in the spring of the freshman year or the fall of the sophomore year. (Students who have an ACT score of 22 or 1020 on the SAT total score are not required to take the PPST.) After attaining a minimum 2.7 grade point average in the first 60 semester hours (75 for Secondary Education) of the prescribed curriculum, students may schedule an interview with the College's Board of Admission at UT. Progression decisions, which are made by boards, are competitive, based on available field placements.

After completing a Bachelor’s degree, with the elementary, middle grades, or secondary education minor, the student will enroll in graduate studies. A one-year internship, along with required testing, is required for full licensure.

For further information on the teacher education program, contact UT’s College of Education, Health and Human Sciences’ Office of Professional Licensure, Licensure Services at (865) 974-8194.

Students wishing to pursue a career in Elementary Education, Middle Grades Education, or Secondary Education should choose an undergraduate major in their area of interest in the College of Arts and Sciences and should plan on a minor in Education in their Junior and Senior Years. Students pursuing Middle Grades Education will choose a major in English, Mathematics, a Natural Science area, or a Social Science (History, Geography, Economics, or Political Science). Students pursuing Secondary Education will choose a major in the subject area they plan to teach (e.g., Spanish, English). Students should note that they will earn their baccalaureate degree at the conclusion of their Senior year and teacher license after completion of their fifth or Professional year.