

Bachelor of Education (Elementary)

The Bachelor of Education (Elementary) program is a competitive, limited-access professional program. As the number of applicants for this highly sought-after program increases each year, competition for places is very intense, even among applicants with very strong qualifications. You should ensure, then, that you meet and wherever possible surpass the basic pre-requisites or co-requisites for this program.

Application and Admission Requirements

1. To ensure that your application will be forwarded to the Mount's Faculty of Education, you must meet the following minimum requirements:

- You must have completed at least 7.5 units (45 credit hours) of your undergraduate degree in teachable subjects as defined by the Nova Scotia Department of Education. These include most basic arts and science courses except those in philosophy, psychology and religious studies or other subjects not taught in Nova Scotia schools.
- You must have maintained a grade-point-average of 3.0 or better in at least the last 10 units (60 credit hours) of your first degree.

2. When your application reaches the Mount's Faculty of Education, it will be reviewed according the following six criteria:

- a) **Grades:** The Mount does not simply select the students with the highest undergraduate marks. Rather, marks are one indicator of academic success in post-graduate professional studies.
- b) **Course Work:** Among the basic teachable subjects, applicants to the BEd (Elementary) program should have completed **at least:**
 - 1.0 full unit (6 credit hours) in English (or if your undergraduate degree was delivered in French, at least 1.0 full unit in French)
 - 1.0 full unit in Canadian or local history
 - 0.5 unit (3 credit hours) in one of the following: history, geography, economics, or political science
(will no longer be required for admission as of August 1st, 2013)
 - 1.0 full unit (6 credit hours) in a pure science, with a laboratory (e.g. biology, chemistry, physics, or interdisciplinary studies in science)
 - 0.5 unit (3 credit hours) in fundamental concepts of mathematics
(Math requirement will increase to a total of 1.0 unit (6 credit hours) for admission as of August 1st, 2013)
 - 0.5 unit (3 credit hours) in developmental, child or educational psychology

The listing above represents minimum requirements. Applicants who are missing some of these components might be considered for admission, but if admitted to the program, these courses must be completed by the beginning of the second year in the program. A higher rating in this category is given to those applicants with more academic background in the core subjects taught in elementary schools: science, mathematics, language arts, social studies, and fine arts.

- c) **References:** References are evaluated on the basis of what your referees say about you and on how well they know your particular aptitude for teaching. Your referees should be at arms-length, should know you in some professional or other responsible capacity, and should respond to the questions asked of them as fully as possible.
- d) **Experiences:** Your resume is evaluated on the basis of the nature and amount of experience you have had in areas relevant to teaching. This experience includes, ideally, paid or voluntary work in elementary schools, but other experience with young people as teacher, mentor, tutor or counselor will be considered. A one-page letter of introduction should accompany your resume.
- e) **Writing Sample:** Each applicant to the elementary program must submit an essay response, of no more than two pages (500 words), to the elementary case study included in the application package. Your response to the questions raised by the case study will be evaluated on the basis of what you say and how you say it. In other words, attention will be given to your ability to present well thought out responses in clear and correct prose.
- f) **Computer Skills:** You must have demonstrable competence in educational technologies such as word processing e-mail, the Internet and other computer applications. Please outline in your resume.

3. On the basis of the criteria outlined above, a limited number of applicants will be invited for a personal interview at the Mount. The thoroughness and thoughtfulness of your responses to the questions at the interview, any new information brought forward in the interview, and your professional demeanor will influence the ratings given by the interviewers. At the time of the interview, you may be asked to write a competency test in basic mathematics.

4. The evaluation of your file and your interview will be taken into account in determining the awarding of available seats in the program.

5. Candidates who are offered admission to the program must submit completed criminal records and Child Abuse Registry checks by the deadline dates that will be provided by the Faculty of Education.

6. In view of the large and growing number of applicants to the BEd (Elementary) program and the time required to review files, the Faculty of Education does not provide individual advising/counseling for applicants to whom we are unable to offer a place. Applicants who wish to re-apply should attempt to strengthen their applications in each of the areas outlined in (2 a-f) above. General academic advice for the BEd program is available through the office of the Dean of Professional Studies (902.457.6400 for an appointment).

The application deadline is January. Students are admitted to the BEd program in September only. Mount Saint Vincent University does not offer a part-time program.

Apply today at msvu.ca

Questions? E-mail admissions@msvu.ca

or education@msvu.ca