Important Information for Education Majors

The education major is unlike many other majors at Pitt-Bradford. There are several things you need to be aware of when it comes to program requirements, field experience requirements, admission to the program, and certification. Below you will find answers to commonly asked questions.

Field Experiences:

Almost all courses with an EDUC prefix have a field component of some kind. You will begin with observing classrooms and work your way up through teacher’s aide experiences and ultimately into teaching experiences. For EVERY class that has a field component you are required to have CURRENT clearances.

Clearances:

Students enrolled in Education courses at Pitt-Bradford must apply for the following required clearances: PA Child Abuse Clearance, PA State Police Criminal Record Check, and the FBI Federal Criminal History Record obtained through the PA Department of Education mandated Cogent ID System.

The Pennsylvania clearances are good for one year from the date of issue and must be kept current throughout enrollment in the education program and up to the time of applying for certification. The FBI clearance does not need to be renewed until you apply for employment in a school. More information about the clearances can be obtained at the following Web site: http://www.upb.pitt.edu/uploadedFiles/Academics/Majors_and_Minors/Education/Forms/clearancesTeacherEducationProgram.pdf

Program Requirements:

Education majors must earn at least a C- in any course required for the major. You need to have a 3.0 overall GPA to be officially admitted into the teacher education program. For specific course requirements by major you can visit the following Web site and click on the major that applies to you. http://www.upb.pitt.edu/academicprograms.aspx
Admission to Program:

When you are accepted to Pitt-Bradford, you may declare education as a major but you are not fully an education student until you have been officially admitted into the teacher education program. You will need to meet certain criteria before applications will be accepted.

- Successful completion of sixty (60) credits
- Successful completion of the PRAXIS I (PPST) Exams
- Achieve a cumulative grade point average of 3.0.
- Successful completion, with at least a grade of C- in the following courses:
  Computers in Education (Or equivalent class based on content area major),
  Introduction to Education, and Education Lab I
- Provide copies of current clearances

Graduation:

You must complete all requirements for the major, including obtaining a 3.0 GPA and fulfilling all courses in the major with a C- or better. In addition, you will need to complete the graduation application through the Enrollment Services Office.

Upon review and final approval by the registrar, your graduation is authorized and your diploma is ordered. You must be in good financial standing with the University to receive your diploma. An on-line graduation application can be found at the following Web site. The graduation application process is the same for both baccalaureate-seeking and post-baccalaureate students.
http://www.upb.pitt.edu/currentstudents.aspx

Certification:

Graduation from the program does not automatically result in teacher certification. Application for a Pennsylvania Instructional I Certificate must be filed once a final transcript has been generated and all PRAXIS II exams are passed. The completed forms and required fee must be submitted to the placement and certification coordinator at Pitt-Bradford.

It is your responsibility to obtain, complete, and submit the application for certification once all requirements are met. Upon successful completion of all certification requirements, the application will be endorsed by the director of teacher education and then forwarded to the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Information on the certification forms can be found at the following Web site. The certification process is the same for both baccalaureate-seeking and post-baccalaureate students.
http://www.teaching.state.pa.us/teaching/cwp/view.asp?a=15&Q=28563&teachingPNavCtr=|&T NID=2533#2533