



Early Childhood/Exception Education (ECE/EXC) 4+1 Accelerated Pathway

The 4+1 accelerated pathway in early childhood/exceptional education (ECE/EXC) is for students in programs leading to a bachelor's degree in early childhood education. The pathway initiates graduate-level coursework at the undergraduate level, providing qualified students with seamless entry to the master's degree program in early childhood exceptional education and an accelerated course of study toward an advanced degree.

ABOUT THE PATHWAY

Candidates in the 4+1 pathway begin the required graduate coursework for the early childhood exceptional education master's program during their senior year of undergraduate study. Candidates then continue with one full year of graduate study to fulfill the coursework requirements for their master's degree and receive recommendation for initial certification, students with disabilities (birth–grade 2).

Students accepted to the 4+1 pathway must follow the curriculum map as outlined by the department in order to complete the program as scheduled. Candidates in the pathway must earn a minimum grade of B in EXE 501: Educational Assessment Techniques for Special Education in order to continue with the graduate portion of the 4+1 pathway. Students are formally admitted to the Graduate School following verification of completion of bachelor's degree requirements and acceptance of the graduate application. Upon formal admission to the Graduate School, earned graduate credit is applied to the graduate course of study, and all graduate policies and privileges apply. Graduate application fees are waived for students in the 4+1 accelerated pathway.

APPLYING TO THE 4+1 PROGRAM

Students enter the 4+1 pathway either as incoming freshmen or at any point in their undergraduate degree program. Interested candidates must submit to the Elementary Education and Read-

ing Department a written statement of commitment to the major that clearly demonstrates why they are selecting the 4+1 option for early childhood educators. The statement must affirm the candidate's intent to remain at Buffalo State for both undergraduate and graduate studies. The writing sample is assessed by the faculty as an essential part of a successful application.

Application packets for the ECE/EXC 4+1 pathway are available in the Elementary Education and Reading Department, Bacon Hall 302. Please visit or call the department at (716) 878-5916 with questions or to make an appointment with a 4+1 pathway adviser.

Admission Requirements General (Undergraduate)

- Entering freshmen must have a minimum high school average of 85.
- Undergraduates must submit SAT or ACT scores for successful admission to the pathway. Current Buffalo State students who are changing majors and applying in their junior year may submit GRE or MAT scores instead.*
- Students who have completed one semester of full-time undergraduate study or at least 12 credit hours of college study must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.

**Candidates accepted to the ECE/EXC 4+1 pathway as undergraduates are not required to submit GRE or MAT scores as required by SUNY for graduate teacher education programs if they have already submitted SAT or ACT scores for acceptance to the undergraduate portion of the pathway.*

Transfer

- Transfer students from two-year and other four-year institutions follow the same institutional admission requirements as other students transferring to Buffalo State teacher education programs.
- Acceptance to the ECE/EXC 4+1 course sequence is contingent on courses completed at institutions that have transfer equivalence to courses in the Buffalo State ECE/EXC 4+1 pathway.
- Undergraduates must submit SAT or ACT scores. Current SUNY students who are changing majors and applying in their junior year may submit GRE or MAT scores instead.
- Transfer students should speak to a department chair before applying. Please call the Elementary Education and Reading Department at (716) 878-5916 or the Exceptional Education Department at (716) 878-5317 with questions or to arrange an appointment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Elementary Education and Reading Department

Bacon Hall 302
elementaryed@buffalostate.edu
(716) 878-5916
elementaryeducation.buffalostate.edu

Exceptional Education Department

Ketchum Hall 204
exeddept@buffalostate.edu
(716) 878-3038
exceptionaleducation.buffalostate.edu