



TWO DEGREES, ONE PATH

TRANSFER PATHWAY GUIDE 2025-2026

Associate in Arts to
Bachelor of Arts in Special Education

Overview

Completion of the following curriculum will satisfy the requirements for the Associate in Arts (AA) at a Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) Institution and leads to the Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Special Education degree at Northern Kentucky University (NKU).

Applying to the KCTCS2NKU Program

Students can apply to participate in the pathway program by completing the online application on the NKU transfer webpage. Students must be enrolled in at least six credit hours at their KCTCS Institution, enrolled in an associate degree program, plan to transfer to NKU, and maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA at their KCTCS Institution.

Degree Requirements for KCTCS

1) Completion of minimum 60 credit hours, 2) minimum cumulative GPA 2.0, 3) minimum of 15 credit hours earned at the institution awarding the degree, 4) demonstration of digital literacy, and 5) college success requirement.

Admission Requirements to NKU

Students completing an associate degree with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher will be accepted into NKU.

Applicants to the College of Education must meet the minimum GPA and entrance exam requirements. Three options are available:

Option 1

- Minimum GPA 2.75 overall (NKU & transfer combined)
- Minimum Exam Scores
 - o ACT Composite of 22; or

- o Combination of subject exams
 - § Reading: ACT 20 or Praxis 150
 - § English/Writing: ACT 18 or Praxis 158
 - § Mathematics: ACT 19 or Praxis 144

Option 2

- Minimum GPA 3.00 overall (NKU & transfer combined)
- Minimum Exam Scores
 - o Combination of subject exams with lower Praxis
 - § Reading: ACT 20 or Praxis 145
 - § English/Writing: ACT 18 or Praxis 153
 - § Mathematics: ACT 19 or Praxis 139

Option 3

- Minimum GPA 3.00 in most recent 30 attempted credit hours
- Minimum Exam Scores
 - o ACT Composite 22; or
 - o Combination of subject exams:
 - § Reading: ACT 20 or Praxis 150
 - § English/Writing: ACT 18 or Praxis 158
 - § Mathematics: ACT 19 or Praxis 144

For full admission, teacher candidates must register for remaining Foundations courses not yet completed (EDU 300, EDU 305, EDU 316 or equivalent). Each of these courses must be completed with a grade of 'C' or higher. They must also register for CMST 101 and/or ENG 316 or equivalent. These courses must be completed with a grade of 'B' or higher.

All application requirements must be completed by the deadlines posted, December 1st for Spring admission semester, and August 1st for Fall admission semester.

Degree Requirements for NKU

To successfully complete the Teacher Education degree program, the following requirements must be fulfilled:

- Successfully complete at least 120 semester hours, the last 30 of which must be earned at NKU.
- Successfully complete at least 45 semester hours of upper-division courses (those numbered at the 300 level or higher).
- Complete all requirements of the Foundation of Knowledge (general education) curriculum for the applicable catalog year. A checklist is provided to candidates.
- Complete all major curriculum requirements.
- Earn all of the following grade point averages
 - o 2.75 or higher for all college coursework combined
 - § Or, if admitted under the 30-hour rule, 2.75 or higher for all college coursework combined starting from the last 30 credit hours attempted before admission to the Teacher Education Program
 - o 2.75 or higher for all coursework attempted at NKU
 - § Or, if admitted under the 30-hour rule, 2.75 or higher for all coursework attempted at NKU starting from the last 30 credit hours attempted before admission to the Teacher Education Program.

- o 2.75 or higher in all Professional Education Courses
- o 2.75 or higher in all teacher field courses (where applicable)
- Successfully complete the Clinical Experience, the Teacher Work Sample, and the final portfolio check.

General Transfer Information

Students must complete the online application to NKU. There is no application fee for students who are transferring from a KCTCS institution.

KCTCS Scholars Award: Students who are KY residents transferring directly from a KCTCS institution with at least 36 hours from that institution and minimum GPA of 3.0, were never enrolled as a degree-seeking student at NKU, and will be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours both fall and spring semester are eligible for a limited number of \$2,500 annual scholarships (\$1,250 per fall and spring). Students must gain admission to NKU by June 15 for fall and November 1 for spring to be eligible for a possible scholarship. Online accelerated programs are not eligible for the KCTCS Scholars Award.

KCTCS AA TO NKU BA IN SPECIAL EDUCATION CHECKLIST
Kentucky Community and Technical College System Institution

Category 1: KCTCS General Education Core Requirements

KCTCS Course	Course or Category	Credits	NKU Course	Completed
ENG 101	Writing I (WC)	3	ENG 101	
ENG 102	Writing II (WC)	3	ENG 102	
COM 181	Basic Public Speaking (OC)	3	CMST 101	
TBS XXX	Arts & Humanities – Humanities (AH)	3	TBD XXX	
TBS XXX	Arts & Humanities (AH) – Humanities	3	TBD XXX	
PSY 110	General Psychology (SB)	3	PSY 100	
TBS XXX	Social & Behavioral Sciences Course (SB)	3	TBD XXX	
TBS XXX	Social & Behavioral Sciences Course (SB)	3	TBD XXX	
TBS XXX	Natural Science (NS)	3	TBD XXX	
MAT 146 or MAT 150	Contemporary College Mathematics (QR) or College Algebra (QR)	3	MAT 115 (MAT 102 or MAT 103) + MAT 100T	
MAT 206	Mathematics for Elementary and Middle School Teachers II (QR)	3	MAT 141	
	Subtotal General Education Core Courses	34		

TBS XXX means to be selected by KCTCS student.

TBD XXX means to be determined by NKU based on course selected.

For Social and Behavioral Sciences courses, two disciplines must be represented and different from those in the Arts and Humanities category.

A grade of A or B in MAT 150 equates to MAT 103 + MAT 100T. Grade of C or D in MAT 150 equates to MAT 102 + MAT 100T.

Category 2: KCTCS AA Requirements

KCTCS Course	Course or Category	Credits	NKU Course	Completed
ASL 101U or SED 101	American Sign Language I (FL) or Sign Language I (FL)	3	ASL 110	
ASL 102U or SED 102	American Sign Language II (FL) or Sign Language II (FL)	3	ASL 111	
	Subtotal AA Requirement Courses	6		

Category 3: KCTCS Electives

KCTCS Course	Course or Category	Credits	NKU Course	Completed
	First-Year Experience	0-3		
EDP 202	Human Development and Learning	3	EDU 300	
EDU 201	Introduction to American Education	3	EDU 305	
MAT 205	Mathematics for Elementary and Middle School Teachers I	3	MAT 140	
EDU 204	Technology in the Classroom	3	EDU 313	
EDU 240 or EDU 270	Elementary and Middle School Literature or Elementary School Literature	3	ENG 386	
TBS XXX	Elective	3-6	TBD XXX	
	Subtotal Elective Courses	21		
	Total Associate Degree Hours	61		

Students in the Gateway2NKU, MCTC2NKU or Jefferson2NKU programs are encouraged to choose one NKU Elementary Education degree course from the NKU course catalog as their elective. Students should work with their NKU advisor before enrolling in these courses.

Northern Kentucky University

Category 4: NKU Major Requirements for Special Education

NKU Course	Course	Credits	KCTCS Course	Taken at KCTCS
ASL 110	Beginning American Sign Language I	3	ASL 101U or SED 101	x
CMST 101	Public Speaking	3	COM 181	x
EDS 322 or EDS 323 or EDS 324	Instructional Planning for Inclusive Elementary Classrooms or Instructional Planning for Inclusive Middle Level Classrooms or Instructional Planning for Inclusive Secondary Classrooms	3		
EDS 326	Admissions Field Experience Special Education	2		
EDS 362	Applied Behavior Analysis for Students with Disabilities	3		
EDS 364	Characteristics of Learning Disabilities	3		
EDS 365	Characteristics of Emotional/Behavioral Disorder	3		
EDS 464	Assessment Learning and Behavior Disorders	3		
EDS 472	Special Education Methods and Materials	3		
EDS 473	Special Education Field Experience	2		
EDS 490	Clinical Field Experience in Special Education	12		
EDS 561	Intellectual and Orthopedic Disabilities	3		

NKU Course	Course	Credits	KCTCS Course	Taken at KCTCS
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EDS 570	Working with Families of Students with Disabilities	3		
EDS 572	Secondary Special Education Programs	3		
EDU 104	Orientation: Education Profession/Program	1		
EDU 107	Foundational Math for Elementary and Middle Grades	1		
EDU 300	Human Growth and Development	3	EDP 202	x
EDU 302	Teaching of Reading	3		
EDU 305	Introduction to Education	2	EDU 201	x
EDU 310	Teaching Language Arts in Early Grades	3		
EDU 313	Instructional Technology	3	EDU 204	x
EDU 316	Education in a Multicultural Society	3		
EDU 388	Elementary Field Experience I	2		
ENG 102	Writing and Research	3	ENG 102	x
ENG 386	Children's Literature	3	EDU 240 or EDU 270	x
MAT 140	Arithmetic Structures for Elementary Teachers	3	MAT 205	x
MAT 141	Geometry I for K-8 Teachers	3	MAT 206	x
PSY 100	Introduction to Psychology	3	PSY 110	x
SCI 110	Integrative Science	4		
STA 113	Probability and Statistics with Elementary Education Applications	3		
Select 12 credits:	Select Guided Electives for 12 credit hours. Courses are 3 credits unless indicated otherwise.	12	ASL 102U or SED 102	x Need 9 more credits
ASL 111	Beginning American Sign Language II			
ASL 201	American Sign Language III			
ASL 202	American Sign Language IV			
ASL 326	Deaf Culture and Community			
ASL 327	Deaf History in America			
ASL 400	Aspects of Deaf Life			
COU 575	Mindfulness and Contemplative Practices			
EDS 452	Education, Advocacy and Dis/Ability (1 credit)			
EDS 453	Mentoring Field Experience (2 credits)			
EDS 551	Assistive Technology in the Classroom			
EDU 517	Teaching of Phonics in Elementary/Middle			
EDU 522	The Mindful Helping Professional (1-4 credits)			
EDU 523	The Mindful Leader			
EDU 594	Topics: Education (1-3 credits)			
	Subtotal Major Credit Hours at NKU	72		
	Subtotal Major Credit Hours at GCTC	32		
	Total Major Credit Hours	104		
	Total Baccalaureate Degree Credit Hours	133		

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