PREREQUISITE FACT SHEET

CHILDHOOD EDUCATION:
Prior to applying for New York State certification, childhood candidates must complete three credit hours of college/university level credit in English, science, math, social studies and a foreign language.

English includes any literature, writing, grammar, or linguistics class.

Science includes courses typically offered by specific science departments (biology, chemistry, earth science and physics) and are considered core requirements for a degree in any of those sciences. Applied science courses such as environmental science, conservation, wildlife management and agriculture are not acceptable.

Math includes any type of math typically offered by a university math department. In addition, statistics and research methods courses from other disciplines may meet the math requirement.

Social Studies includes any social sciences, such as history, geography, political science, sociology, anthropology, economics, psychology or philosophy.

Foreign language includes any language other than English, including American Sign Language. Two or more full-year courses in a foreign language in high school with grades of “B” or higher will also meet the requirement. We may also accept other evidence of foreign language proficiency, e.g., native speakers, etc.

ADOLESCENCE EDUCATION: see the back of this page for information related to your concentration area and the paragraph above regarding the foreign language requirement.

COMPLETING PREREQUISITES:
Prerequisites should be complete prior to student teaching. These courses can be taken at Canisius or may be completed at other colleges or universities. OAC/Grade 13 courses can be counted in each area for Canadian students, if applicable.

Some schools offer both credit and non-credit courses. Students must take credit bearing courses that issue a transcript upon completion. The transcript must show both credit and a grade. Credit values may differ. We consider 45 classroom hours of meeting time to be equivalent to 3 credit hours.

Once complete, provide a transcript to this office to ensure credit is granted.

CLEP exams (College Level Examination Program) are also acceptable. CLEP is a credit by exam program where students may be awarded undergraduate credit by demonstrating competence in a subject area. More information is available at: www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/clep/about.html

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Credit by exam is available for geography and other subject areas at:
www.getcollegecredit.com/testprep/#courses

United States students often take missing prerequisites at Erie Community College,
Niagara Community College or online from an accredited college/university.

Many Canadian students choose to satisfy their prerequisites by taking college level
courses at local colleges like George Brown, Durham, Centennial, Niagara, et al. Some
have used the consortium OntarioLearn.com. The consortium consists of more than 20
Ontario colleges delivering online courses. Others take online courses from other
Canadian schools such as Athabasca University.

**ADOLESCENCE EDUCATION:**

Prior to New York State certification, adolescence candidates must complete the
requirements listed below for their area of concentration.

All candidates must also complete 3 credit hours in a **foreign language** (see the front of
the page for information on the foreign language requirement.

**Spanish, French, or German** – 30 credit hours of study in that language

**Business Education** – 36 credit hours in business.

**English** – 36 credit hours are required in English. Topics needed to be covered include
linguistics/grammar, American literature, World literature, young adult literature, British
literature, and writing/composition.

**Math** – 37 credit hours are required in math. Topics needed include calculus 1,
calculus 2, calculus 3, differential equations, abstract math, linear algebra, abstract
algebra, geometry, and statistics.

**Biology** – 36 credit hours are required in biology. Topics needed include botany,
evolution, microbiology, biochemistry, organismal biology, ecology, physiology, cell
biology, zoology, genetics and anatomy.

**Chemistry** – 36 credit hours are required in chemistry. Topics needed include inorganic
chemistry, organic chemistry, biochemistry, analytical chemistry, and physical chemistry.

**Physics** – 36 credit hours are required in physics. Topics needed include general physics,
classical mechanics, nuclear physics, optics, electricity/magnetism, quantum mechanics,
electronics, and statistics & thermal dynamics.

**Social Studies** – 36 credit hours are required in social studies. Eighteen (18) credit hours
are required in history. Three (3) credits are needed in each of the following areas:
geography, political science/government, cultural studies, and economics. The remaining
credit hours may be from any other area of social sciences including psychology or
philosophy.

For more information or if would like to have courses pre-approved prior to course
registration, contact the Graduate Admissions Office at 716-888-2545 or 800-950-2505.