

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING****ELEMENTARY TEACHER EDUCATION BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE (BS-ED)
INITIAL MISSISSIPPI TEACHER LICENSE**

2.2024

The **Elementary Teacher Education** program leading to a **Bachelor of Science** degree at Belhaven University is designed for individuals aspiring to become licensed elementary teachers in Mississippi. By endorsing this **Memorandum of Understanding**, I acknowledge that the curriculum aligns with the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) requirements and national InTASC standards necessary for obtaining my initial teacher licensure in Mississippi. I am aware that this degree and the corresponding Mississippi Teacher License may have *full reciprocity* in certain states, eliminating the need for additional requirements. However, it is important to note that it might not satisfy all licensure prerequisites in other states, and additional requirements could vary.

I desire to major in Elementary Teacher Education to be recommended for a Mississippi Elementary Teacher License. I have read and understand the entrance and exit requirements to the Teacher Educator Preparation Program (TEPP), the MDE testing requirements, the clinical field and clinical internship hours, and the professional dispositions and expectations for school and classroom decorum.

I acknowledge that I have received a degree plan of study and have completely read and understand the following for Admission to the Teacher Educator Preparation Program (TEPP):

1. I begin the Elementary Teacher Education program as a **Pre-Education Major** during my Freshman and Sophomore years
2. I must have qualifying passing scores on the following required teacher assessment exams in order to be admitted to the TEPP:
Prior to the start of my Junior Year, I must meet one (1) of the following three (3) items:
 - Have current Praxis CORE scores: Reading, Writing, and Math (check with Praxis online for MS required current scores) with a GPA of 2.75 or higher,
 - **OR** Have qualifying ACT scores: Composite score of 21 or higher or Qualifying SAT scores with a GPA of 2.75 or higher,
 - **OR** Have a GPA of 3.0 or better,
- **AND** Have taken and passed the Praxis **PLT** assessment exam by the **end of the first semester of my Junior year**
3. I am required to have and maintain a letter grade of **C or higher** in all TEPP Courses.
4. During the **Fall Semester** of my Junior year, I must have an **INTERVIEW** with the Teacher Preparation Committee to be admitted to the **TEACHER EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM (TEPP)**. I understand that without admission to the TEPP, I **cannot advance in the School of Education**.
5. I understand that without admission to the TEPP, I **cannot advance in the School of Education**; I will no longer be allowed to register for any additional Education courses and will need to change my major.
6. Once admitted to the TEPP, I will be declared to be an **ELEMENTARY TEACHER EDUCATION MAJOR**
7. I understand that I must pass the **Praxis CIA Test prior to my Senior year**.
8. I understand that I must take and pass the **Foundations of Reading Test (FOR)** by the **Mid-Term of the first semester of my Senior year**.
9. I must have an overall University GPA of 2.75 at graduation in order to qualify for my Mississippi Elementary Teacher License.

OUT-OF-STATE APPLICANTS DO NOT QUALIFY FOR THE MISSISSIPPI MAT ALTERNATE ROUTE DEGREE PROGRAM

***OUT-OF-STATE APPLICANTS & CANDIDATES REGARDING EDUCATOR LICENSURE:** *The Belhaven University Educator Licensure Preparation Programs are in compliance with Federal Regulations: 34 CFR 668.43 (a) (5) (v) and 34 CFR 668.43 (c), requiring disclosures by institutions regarding educational requirements for programs leading to professional licensure or certification regardless of modality. The Belhaven University School of Education has made no determination as to whether Belhaven's Educator Preparation Programs and curriculum meet other state educational requirements for educator licensure other than those educator licensure programs approved by the state of Mississippi. All of the Belhaven University School of Education educator preparation degree programs leading to educator licensure have been approved by the Mississippi Department of Education. The Belhaven University School of Education's Educator Preparation Licensure Programs do not automatically qualify candidates for an educator licensure, certification upgrade, endorsement, or pay increase within their state of residence or state of employment. Out-of-state candidates are responsible for ascertaining the requirements for licensure, endorsement, or pay increase by the state where they seek employment or licensure. For individuals seeking clarity on whether the teacher educator programs offered by the Belhaven University School of Education align with licensure requirements in their potential employment or licensure state, the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) has provided a helpful web link. This NC-SARA link contains a comprehensive list of State Departments or Agencies responsible for Teacher Educator Licensure in each state. The list includes contact information and website links to the respective state's educator licensure requirements. Access the information through the following link: Professional Licensure Directory: <https://nc-sara.org/professional-licensure-directory>*

Candidate's Name –Printed: _____

Candidate's Signature: _____

Date: _____