

BUFF **START**

A stylized illustration of a buffalo in maroon and white, positioned behind the main title.

Stampede Track for Accelerated Readiness for Teaching

Be highly
recommended
by campus or
district
administrator.

Hold an
Educational
Aide
certificate.

Have a 2.75
GPA or higher

Be Core
Curriculum
complete = 60
semester
credit hours

Key Benefits of BUFF START

Candidates may earn a
B.S. Ed. degree and
certification from an
accredited Texas
university in as few as
14 months.

Paraprofessionals with
instructional
responsibilities can use
the experience to
complete their clinical
teaching requirements.

Candidates will be eligible
to earn a Texas Educator
certificate while finishing
the program – no need for
additional Alternative
Certification costs.



BUFF START

- ♦ All transcript hours with a “C” or better from an accredited College or University can be transferred into the program.
- ♦ Of the required 120 semester credit hours, 84 can be completed through other institutions. WTAMU graduates must take the last 36 advanced hours through WTAMU.
- ♦ Completion of District Professional Development may be incorporated into some required assignments in the 12 hours of accelerated Education on Demand (EOD) coursework.
- ♦ Paraprofessionals instructional responsibilities can be counted as clinical teaching in Texas. TEA requires 490 hours of supervised experience for a minimum of 28 weeks.
- ♦ The school district has the flexibility to fund all costs to candidates through the “WTAMU Sponsored Billing” process.
- ♦ Financial aid may be available to candidates through FAFSA/Pell Grants as well as WTAMU university and department scholarships.
- ♦ Time of completion for B.S. Ed. Degree from WTAMU and Texas Teacher Certification can be accomplished in as few as 14 months depending on the certification area.

**These five programs are
offered 100% online.**

EC-6

ELAR 4-8

**Special
Education
(EC-12)**

**ELAR/Social
Studies
(4-8)**

**Social
Studies
(4-8)**

Office of Educator Prep Contacts

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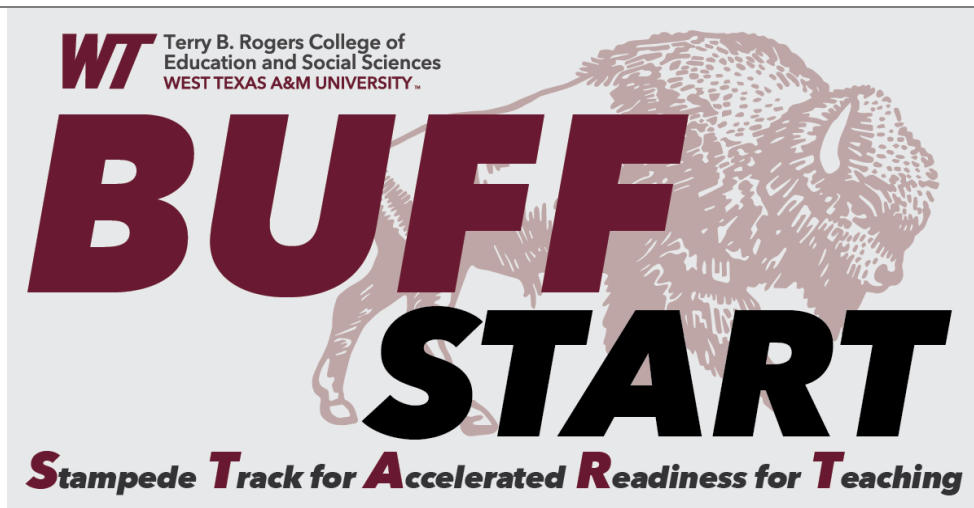
Program Framework

- ♦ Accelerated “Education on Demand” (EOD) – 12 hours
- ♦ Summer Session 1 – 6 hours
- ♦ Summer Session 2 – 6 hours
- ♦ Fall Semester – 12 hours (w/ 3 hrs. Clinical Teaching)
- ♦ Spring Semester – 12 hours (w/ 3 hrs. Clinical Teaching)
- ♦ Summer Session 3 – 6 hours

WT
EDUCATORS
EXCELLENCE
Initiative



50%
tuition



WTAMU BUFF START Program Checklist:

Basic Program Requirements:

- ☐ Have you received a recommendation from your school district administration?
- ☐ Have you served as a paraprofessional in your current school district for a minimum of four months?
- ☐ Do you hold a current Educational Aide Certificate [TAC §230.51]?
- ☐ Do you spend at least four hours (240 min.) of instruction per workday in the content area you wish to certify?
- ☐ Have you earned approximately 45-60 hours of college credit?
- ☐ Is your college GPA 2.75 or higher?
- ☐ Are you able to balance both work and school for at least 14 months?

Application Process

- ☐ School District Administrator submits the Buff START Program Recommendation Form.
- ☐ Send transcripts of all college credits to the WTAMU Education Academic Advisor for the Buff START program for review.
- ☐ Meet with WTAMU Education Academic Advisor for the Buff START program to receive pathway recommendations.
- ☐ Complete the undergraduate WTAMU Admissions Application.
- ☐ Upon acceptance into the Buff START program and West Texas A&M University, complete the application for entrance into the Educator Preparation Program (EPP).

BUFF START

TEXES TEST
PPR:
CONTENT:

Stampede Track for Accelerated Readiness for Teaching

NAME _____ ID# _____ DATE _____
DEGREE BS MAJOR Education CERTIFICATION CORE EC-6 TRACK ESL Track TEXES TESTS 160, 391 & 293

NOTE: Please reach out to our Advisors for more information and to help coordinator past hours and transcripts.

Lead Advisor: Robin Johnson
(806) 651-2610
rjohnson@wtamu.edu

Advisor: Ray Rigoni
(806) 651-2642
rrigoni@wtamu.edu

COURSES NOT COUNTED TOWARDS DEGREE:

The university reserves the right to change admission, curriculum and/or degree requirements, and certification requirements to comply with state and federal policy/laws/regulations. The student assumes full responsibility for meeting all university requirements and for keeping current with changes that may affect graduation and/or certification.

	Hrs (a)	Hrs (c)	Hrs (e)	Gr Pts	GPA	Currently Enrolled
TRANSFER						Hrs Needed
						Hrs Completed
WTAMU						Total Hrs
TOTAL						

Notes:

The following teaching courses are not on the Buff Start Plan:

Math 1350 & Math 1351

HUMA 3315

NSCI 2372

MCOM 2310

Students can transfer in EPSY 3350 & EDEC 3383

EC-6 is the only certification area that fits this timeline. Other certification areas will take longer.

**Major: Education – Core Subjects (EC-6) Certification
(Education B.S.) – ESL Track**

Major Code: 860

May Intercession A		Summer Session 1A	
EPSY 3350 Children with Special Needs -OR-	3	EDEC 3383 Early Childhood Education	3
EDEL 4381 STEM Teaching and Learning	3	EDRD 3302 Reading Skills I	3
	3		
	3		
Total:	6	Total:	6
Summer Session 2A		Fall Semester	
EDEC 3384 Curriculum and the Young Child	3	EPSY 3341 Educational Psychology (EDO Accelerated)	3
EDRD 4302 Reading Skills II	3		3
EDPD 4348 Data-Informed Instruction and Assessment		EDRD 3304 Structured Literacy I	3
		EDEL 4372 Teaching Writing	3
		EPSY 4341 Educator Readiness and Performance (EDO Accelerated)	
Total:	6	Total:	12
Winter Intercession		Spring Semester	
EDPD 4378 Language Development	3	EDRD 4305 Structured Literacy II	3
		EDEL 4371 Educational Methodology (EDO Accelerated)	3
		NSCI 2371 Integrated Science: Earth Science	3
		EDEL 3374 Social Sciences for Teachers	3
		EDPD 4340 Classroom Management (EDO Accelerated)	3
Total:	3	Total:	12
May Intercession B		Summer Intercession 1B	
EPSY 3350 Children with Special Needs -OR-	3	MATH 3301 Math for Teachers III	3
EDEL 4381 STEM Teaching and Learning	3	EDPD 4388 ESL Teaching Methods	3
Total:	3	Total:	6
Fall Residency		Spring Residency	
EDPD 4398 Clinical Teaching – All Certificate Areas	3	EDEL 4341 Clinical Teaching – Elementary	3
Total:	3	Total:	6

¹ **CORE:** Core Subjects (EC-6) Certification majors are required to choose from specific courses for Core 20. For all other categories, they may select from any available options (see degree checklist). Apart from the major-specific core requirements, there is no set order in which core courses must be taken.

² Requirements to take EPSY 3341: Apply to the Educator Preparation Program; application submitted to Office of Teacher Preparation (Old Main 415); 2.75 GPA in overall WT/transfer hours combined or last 60 hours taken; 2.75 GPA in content field(s)/teaching field(s).

Additional notes: The core curriculum must total exactly 42 hours; excess hours must be moved to the major as an elective or a major requirement and stay within the 120-hour requirement or approved total submitted to the Coordinating Board for degree requirements. Some majors specify particular courses to meet core curriculum requirements when options are available.

-At least 36 hours of advanced work (3000- or 4000-level courses) for which tuition is paid must be earned at WTAMU. A maximum of six semester hours in religion (RELI) and six semester hours in physical education (PHED) courses can count toward a baccalaureate degree.

DISCLAIMER: This curriculum guide should be used in conjunction with the corresponding degree checklist for general planning purposes only. The degree checklist (later a student's official degree plan) should be referred to as the comprehensive list of all courses required for the degree. An official degree plan is required after completing 30 hours. Students should always seek the advice of their academic adviser before scheduling classes.

A. GENERAL EDUCATION (42 hours)	HRS	GRADE	C. TEACHING FIELD (57 hours)	HRS	GRADE
ENGL 1301 or 1311 (10)	3		(Must make a "C" or better and a 2.75 combined with section E)		
COMM 1315 or 1318 or 1321 (10)	3		EDEC 2383 Early Child Education	3	
MATH 1314, 1316, 1324, 1325, 1332, 1342 , 1350, 2412, or 2413 (20)	3		EDEC 3384 Curriculum & the Young Child	3	
ANSC 1319; BIOL 1406 or 1308, 1407* or 1309*, 1411, 1413; CHEM 1305* or 1411*, 1412*; ENVR 1407*; GEOL 1301 or 1403, 1302, 1404; PHYS 1401*, 1402*, 1311, 1312, 1371, 2425*, 2426*; PSES 1301, 1307	3		EDRD 3302 Reading Skills I	3	
- BIOL 1406, 1407, 1411, 1413; CHEM 1411, 1412; GEOL 1403, 1404; PHYS 1401, 1402, 2425, 2426: 4 th hr. moves to Core 90 (30)	3		EDRD 4302 Reading Skills II	3	
ANTH 2351, ENGL 2321, 2326, 2331, 2341, 2343; HIST 2311, 2323, 2372; MCOM 1307, PHIL 1301, 2374; SPAN 2311, 2312, 2313, 2315, 2371 (40)	3		EDRD 3304 Structured Literacy I	3	
ARTS 1301, 1303, 1304; DANC 2303, MUSI 1306, 1307, 1310; or THRE 1310 (50)	3		EDRD 4305 Structured Literacy II	3	
HIST 1301, 1302, 2301, 2381, 2382 (60)	3		EDEL 4372 Teaching Writing	3	
HIST 1301, 1302, 2301, 2381, 2382 (60)	3		EDEL 3374 Social Sciences for Teachers	3	
POSC 2305 (70)	3		EDEL 4381 STEM Teaching & Learning	3	
POSC 2306 (70)	3		EPSY 3350 Children with Special Needs	3	
AGBE 2317, COMM 2377, CRIJ 1301, ECON 2301, 2302; GEOG 1302, PSYC 2301, SOCI 1301 (80)	3		HUMA 3315 Fine Arts Fundamentals	3	
AGRI 2300; BIOL 4 th hour from 4-hour courses (from Core 30); BUSI 1301, 1304; CHEM 4 th hour from 4-hour courses (from Core 30); CIDM 1105, CIDM 1301 or 1315; CS 1301; ECON 2331; ENGL 1101, 1102, 1302*, 1312*, 2311*; ENVR 4 th hour (from Core 30); GEOL 4 th hour from 4-hour courses (from Core 30); IDS 1071 (1-3 hours); MATH 4 th hour from 4-hour courses (from Core 20); MUSI 1053; PHIL 2303; PHYS 4 th hour from 4-hour courses (from Core 30); SES 1120 (90)	3		MATH 1350 Mathematics for Teachers I	3	
	3		MATH 1351 Mathematics for Teachers II	3	
			MATH 3301 Mathematics for Teachers III	3	
B. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (21 hours)			NSCI 2371 Integrated Science: Earth Science	3	
(Must make a "C" or better and a 2.75 gpa combined with section C)			NSCI 2372 Integrated Science: Biology	3	
EPSY 3341 Educational Psychology	3		MCOM 2310 Media Design or MCOM 3309 Multimedia Journalism	3	
EPSY 4341 Educator Readiness & Performance	3		EDPD 4378 Language Development (ESL Track)	3	
EDPD 4340 Classroom Management	3		EDPD 4388 ESL Teaching Methods (ESL Track)	3	
EDPD 4348 Data-Informed Instruction & Assessment	3				
EDEL 4371 Educational Methodology	3				
EDEL 4341 Clinical Teaching – Elementary	3				
EDPD 4398 Clinical Teaching—All Cert. Areas	3				
			DEGREE HOURS TOTAL: 120		

BUFF START

Stampede Track for Accelerated Readiness for Teaching

WTAMU Buff START Program Recommendation Form

Section 1. Personal Information of the Paraprofessional being Recommended

Name: _____
Last First MI Maiden

Buff ID: _____ (if applicable) TEA ID: _____ D.O.B: _____ Gender : M F

Section 2. Professional Information

Name of ISD: _____ Name of School: _____

Campus Administrator: _____
Name Email Phone
(Circle One)

Is the certified Educator Aide currently employed with a school district according to TAC §230.51? YES NO

Have they been employed and served on a valid Educational Aide Certificate for at least four months? YES NO

Are they employed at least 4hrs/day in the area in which they are seeking certification? YES NO

Are they assisting and supporting students in an instructional setting? YES NO

**Their daily schedule must meet a minimum of at least 4hrs/day of instructional delivery/support to students in the area they are seeking certification according to TAC §228.67.*

**Please provide a copy of their Educational Aide Certificate, service/work record, and daily work schedule with your recommendation.*

Mentor/Cooperating Teacher Qualifications:

- Minimum of 3 years as a certified teacher.
- Rated proficient or above in teacher evaluations for the past 3 years.

- Demonstrated positive impact on student learning outcomes, supported by growth or achievement data.
- Recognized as an accomplished educator by their campus principal.
- Demonstrates professional dispositions aligned with the goals and values of the Buff START program.

**List of potential certified mentor teachers who are eligible to serve as the Mentor/Cooperating Teacher
(Refer to requirements above)**

Name:

Certification Area:

Contact Email:

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Section 3. Area of Certification

Please indicate the certification area the individual will be pursuing (choose one area):

**The following certification areas below are offered fully online.*

**Please note that 4hrs./day must be in the cert. area they are seeking.*

**14 months completion time is contingent upon having previously earned credit.*

**Special Ed EC – 12 rotations will require approximately 18 months completion time.*

Elementary, Grades EC - 6	Middle School, Grades 4 - 8	All-Levels, Grades EC - 12
☐ EC – 6 CORE Subjects with STR	☐ ELAR 4 – 8 with STR	☐ Special Ed. Specialist EC – 12
	☐ ELAR/SS 4 – 8 with STR	
	☐ Social Studies 4 – 8	

Section 4. Acknowledgements and Authorizations

By signing this program recommendation, you acknowledge the following:

- The contents of this application are true and correct to the best of your knowledge.
- The potential candidate must meet the following admission criteria of the Educator Preparation Program (EPP) and the Buff START Program:
 - Having and maintaining a 2.75 GPA overall and in the content area of certification.
 - Completing the minimum number of SCH (12) in the subject specific content area as required by TEA.

Please collect required signatures and documents (see below); then, send this completed program recommendation form via email, mail, or in-person to the Office of Educator Preparation.

If the recommended Educational Aide is accepted into the Buff START program:

- 1. They must apply and be accepted to West Texas A&M University prior to starting the Buff START program.***
(Application to the University: <https://www.wtamu.edu/admissions/index.html>)
- 2. They must meet with the Buff START advisor to schedule courses.***
- 3. If they have 45 completed SCH, they may be eligible to apply for entrance into the WTAMU Educator Preparation Program (EPP).***

Section 5. School District Recommendation Checklist

School district must submit these items:

- This completed and signed program recommendation form
- Copies of all the paraprofessional's college/university transcripts (Unofficial is acceptable, but they will need an official copy when they apply to the university. ***Program admission is contingent upon receipt of official transcripts and acceptance to the university.***)
- Copy of the paraprofessional's work schedule with the campus administrator's signature.
- List of eligible mentor teachers.

Field Supervisor Recommendation:

- If outside of a 50-mile radius of Canyon, TX, we would appreciate your recommendation for potential field supervisors who would be eligible to be hired by WTAMU as a part-time employee to provide supervision for this recommended individual.

Please contact Mr. Gilbert Antunez at West Texas A&M University: gantunez@wtamu.edu; (806) 651-2908.

Section 6. Campus and District Representative Agreements

The Buff START program works **in collaboration** with school districts to help ensure the success of candidates. Therefore, a member of the school district administrative team (campus or central office administrator) must recommend an applicant for the Buff START program and agree to provide support to the applicant throughout the program.

By signing below, the administrator recommends the candidate for acceptance into the WTAMU Buff START program based on their potential to continue in their current position as a paraprofessional (educational aide) while demonstrating the ability to complete the **rigorous and accelerated** components of the Buff START program and all TEA certification requirements.

Required Agreements:

- Campus and District Administration agrees to ensure the candidate is able to remain in their area of certification for a minimum of 4 hours/day of instructional delivery/support to students and is supported by a high-quality eligible mentor teacher.
- Campus and District Administration agrees to provide appropriate support and communication to the candidate as needed.
- Campus and District Administration recommends applicant for admission based on their potential to complete the program and verifies that the applicant's knowledge, experience, skills, and aptitude are appropriate for the certification sought.

Signature of Administrator

Role

Date

Optional Support:

- District agrees to provide financial support to the candidate. *(Please reach out to the WTAMU Business Office for more information on sponsored billing: <https://www.wtamu.edu/business-finance/business-office/tuition-fees-deadlines/sponsored-billing.html>)*
 - Business Office contact information: bo@wtamu.edu; (806) 651-2080
 - If financial support is available please designate the financial point of contact.

District Administrator Name

Title

Signature

Date

Section 7. Buff START Recommendation

Please submit this completed and signed program recommendation and supporting documents to the Office of Educator Preparation through one of the following methods:

Preferred Submission Methods:

- **Email:**
 - Email the recommendation form and supporting documents to aham@wtamu.edu
 - Please title the subject line, "Buff START Application First-Name Last-Name".
- **In-Person:**
 - Visit the Office of Educator Preparation, located in Old Main Suite 415. We are open 8-5, M-F.
 - 2501 4th Ave, Canyon, TX 79016

- **Mail in Application:**
 - West Texas A&M University
Office of Educator Preparation
PO Box 60208
Canyon, TX 79016
- **Contact information – (806) 651-2668;**
Mrs. Aubrye Ham: aham@wtamu.edu