**Choosing your Major**  
Teacher Education Stream (TES) Student Resource  
<https://www.trentu.ca/advising/>

Congratulations on being a part of the Teacher Education Stream (TES) at Trent University. Being a part of this program will provide you with the academic and non-academic foundations for entrance into a Bachelor of Education Program. If you haven’t already done so, you will be required to choose a major in addition to the TES.

**What is a Major?**

A major is the primary area of focus for your studies. All students are required to have a major to graduate. Some students choose to major in two disciplines at the same time which is called a joint-major. Your choice of major(s) will dictate the program requirements that you need to follow to earn your degree.

Other program additions are optional and can add dimensions to your degree that reflect your unique interests or skills. The Teacher Education Stream (TES) is an example of a program addition. You may wish to consider adding a Minor, Specialization or Option to your degree to distinguish yourself from other graduates with the same major(s). For example, TES students may be interested in pursuing the Option in Education alongside their major(s).

Your first step in choosing your major and any program additions is to reflect on what subjects you enjoy or are curious about. Next, read about the courses and programs offered at Trent in the Academic Calendar (<https://www.trentu.ca/registrar/academic-calendar>). After you have an idea of what programs you are interested in, Academic Advisor can assist you with fine tuning your plan and building an educational map that incorporates the requirements for the program(s) you have chosen to ensure you can graduate on your desired timeline.

**Thinking Ahead to your Bachelor of Education Application**<https://www.trentu.ca/education/programs/consecutive-bed/bed-admissions>

As you are considering your choice of major(s), it is important to look ahead to the admissions requirements for the schools you wish to apply to Bachelor of Education programs at. **This document is based on Trent University’s Bachelor of Education Admission Requirements**. If you intend to apply elsewhere, please do your research as all schools have their own admission requirements.

If you are going to be applying to the **Primary/Junior Program (K-6),** there is no specific prerequisites in terms of major or teachable subjects. However, applicants are encouraged to demonstrate a range of curriculum expertise. Choosing a major/majors that allow you the space to take courses required for the TES and those which will assist you with your *Profile Course List,* is an important consideration. Please refer to Bachelor of Education Admission Requirements website for more details (above).

If you are going to be applying to the **Intermediate/Senior Program**, you must select two teaching subjects from the list of teaching subjects that the school you wish to attend offers. You will need to have five (5) full course equivalents in the first teaching subject AND three (3) full course equivalents in the second teaching subject \*. Your teaching subjects do not have to be what you major in, however choosing a major that overlaps with at least one of your teaching subjects will likely make fitting your program requirements into your desired timeframe more possible.

There are some teaching subjects which Trent University does not offer majors in. These include Visual Arts, Health and Physical Education and Drama. For a list of courses which satisfy the requirements of these teaching subjects, please visit <https://www.trentu.ca/education/program/teacher-education-stream/current-students>. For other teaching subjects and general guidelines for each, refer to Bachelor of Education Admission Requirements website for more details (above).

*\* French as a Second Language, and Anishnaabemowin (Ojibwe) require five full course equivalents as a first teaching subject and four full credit equivalents as a second teaching subject.*

**How to Declare/Change your Major**

Once you have completed 3.0 credits at Trent, you will be required to declare your major before you can register for courses. If you change your mind later, you can update your major(s) at that time. You can read more about the resources available to help you with this decision here: <https://www.trentu.ca/advising/planning-your-degree/declarechange-your-major>.

**TES students must contact the Office of the Registrar to declare/change your major** so that you are not removed from the TES. You may email [records@trentu.ca](mailto:records@trentu.ca) to request your change of major. Please give your name, student number, choice of major(s) and any other program additions such as minors, specializations, or options. Please indicate that you are a TES student.

**Concurrent Bachelor of Education – Indigenous Program**<https://www.trentu.ca/education/programs/indigenous-bed>If you are enrolled in the B.Ed-Indigenous Program, you will typically follow a five year timeline and be graduating with an Indigenous Bachelor of Education degree. You may also qualify for a General Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree. Students who wish to pursue a General BA or BSc alongside the B.Ed-Indigenous must follow the program requirements as outlined in the Academic Calendar for the general degree which they seek. The Indigenous Bachelor of Education is one consecutive degree rather than the two year Bachelor of Education degree which students in the TES may be pursuing upon completion of their undergraduate degree.

Students who have fulfilled the requirements for a General degree may graduate with a Specialization in Applied Indigenous Knowledge, Indigenous Performance, or Nishinaabemowin if they have successfully completed the required credits. This information can be found in the Academic Calendar, in the Indigenous Studies section.

In order to declare your pursuit of a general degree and if applicable, a specialization, along with the B.Ed-Indigenous, please email your choice of major to [records@trentu.ca](mailto:records@trentu.ca).