

*What's the difference between a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree and a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree for elementary or secondary teacher certification?*

Typically, a BA degree requires less rigorous coursework, particularly with respect to mathematics and/or science courses.

For example, at the University of Michigan - Dearborn, all elementary teacher candidates must have a major.

A candidate seeking a BA may have a major in any of the following fields:

- Early childhood education
- Integrated science
- Language arts
- Mathematics studies
- Reading
- Social studies
- Special education - Learning disabilities

A candidate seeking a BS must:

- Have a major in mathematics or science
- Earn 60 or more credit hours in mathematics, the natural sciences, computer science, or any combination of these, with at least 20 of these credit hours in upper division courses.

*Why do we evaluate requirements for a BA degree rather than a BS degree?*

The purpose of the *Review* is to determine whether the *minimal* standards of training necessary to become a teacher are adequate to ensure success in the classroom. Programs that meet the minimal standards are likely to train the majority of teachers because in them the greater number of candidates will find success. More importantly, only by identifying the deficiencies in these minimal standards can we significantly raise the bar on teacher prep ensure that all program graduates are classroom-ready.