

Dear Education Faculty:

I am writing in regards to my application for admission to Truman State University's Master of Arts in Education program. When asked which experiences most strongly reinforce my interest in teaching and, in particular, obtaining my preparation through this program, many thoughts come to mind. For the sake of brevity, I shall discuss the two most powerful factors in influencing my decision to apply here.

The first is that Truman offers a rigorous program. Since I was in Kindergarten, I have wanted to pursue a teaching career. Upon revealing this aspiration to others, however, many would ask, "Isn't teaching a fall-back career?" I remember specifically the response my ninth grade science teacher gave me when I told her I was excited about teaching secondary science. She said, "You're too smart to be a teacher. You should consider pursuing a career that is respected and pays well." For the life of me, I could not understand why people, especially teachers themselves, would demean the teaching profession!

This started making sense senior year in high school when I began to peruse Missouri's education programs. To my dismay, I found that the Bachelor of Science in Education programs many colleges offered were like general education programs—they required little expertise in any field besides teaching itself. The advantage of a BSE program is that its pursuants have a teaching job in four years. Its drawback, however, is that teaching often ends up consuming a BSE graduate's life as many have little expertise to pursue other fields or higher education. I have decided that is not the life I want. I want to not only raise the standard of public education by helping it focus more on installation of modern teaching techniques and more stringent academic requirements, but I also want to pursue personal intellectual activity outside of teaching in areas such as ecology and the health sciences. Obtaining a Bachelor's degree in Physics and a Biology minor capped off by a Master's of Arts in Education will help me attain this lifestyle.

The other reason I like Truman's MAE program is its philosophy of reflective practice. I think reflective practice is a good philosophy because one of the most important approaches to teaching, and life for that matter, is carrying the belief that one always has more to learn. This evolutionary approach seems like common sense to me—my teaching will always improve if I am continually willing to receive comments from students, parents, and other faculty, as well as from analysis of the most recent educational research, with an open mind. This will help me weed out ineffective practices and replace them with those that have been shown to work. I am looking forward to learning the different methods of using reflective practice to help me develop a rewarding teaching career and a happy, successful life.

I hope I have presented enough evidence to convince you that not only will I be a successful contender in the MAE program, but that it will facilitate my needs well. I am looking forward to working with Truman's Education faculty in my effort to become an exemplary teacher.

Sincerely yours,

William Romine