Bachelor of Physical Education

By studying for a Bachelor of Physical Education (BPE), you can make a career out of your interest in sports and health. You’ll gain specialised skills and in-depth knowledge in the field of physical education and learn how to be an effective physical education teacher.

Quick facts

Full-time: 4 years (part-time study options also available)
Taught at: Epsom Campus
Points per degree: 480

Programme

A unique programme that enables you to combine physical education knowledge with practical experience. Students will be required to complete a minimum of 900 hours of teaching, coaching and sports-related placements. The BPE programme is based at the University’s Epsom Campus, which has a range of specialist knowledge in the field of physical education.

Study location

Epsom Campus
72 Epsom Avenue, Epsom, Auckland
Epsom Campus is a close-knit and multicultural community with around 5,000 students. Class sizes tend to be small and there are plenty of campus facilities including a 25 metre pool, two gymnasiums, a sports centre, two dance studios, an extensive teacher education library, and some of the most extensive teacher education libraries in New Zealand, practical components associated with physical education and a substantive knowledge base in the bio-physical and socio-cultural sciences underpinning human movement and physical culture.

What you’ll learn

Over the four years you will progressively develop the knowledge and skills required to become an effective physical education teacher through lectures, assessments and practical experience. The first year of the programme will focus on foundational knowledge in the theoretical and practical areas of physical education and health education. In your final year you are able to select from elective courses such as special needs physical education, dance education, outdoor education, and coaching sport, special needs physical education and coaching sport, special needs education. In your final year you are able to further examine research and practices relating to the pedagogy of health and physical education. In your first year you can talk in detail about your career aspirations in this area.

General Education

The General Education programme is a valuable component under University of Auckland’s bachelors degrees and has been designed to give you knowledge and an appreciation of thinking outside your main area of study. You will choose from a range of subjects allowing you to pursue interests in other fields and to complement your specialist knowledge. As part of the General Education programme, the General Education website will act as your guide on how to choose core and elective courses to complete your degree.

Study location

Epsom Campus
72 Epsom Avenue, Epsom, Auckland

The BPE programme is based at the University’s Epsom Campus, which has a range of specialist knowledge in the field of physical education and some of the most extensive teacher education libraries in New Zealand. The campus is located less than 10 minutes’ drive from the CBD and City Campus, and is a short walk from the cafés and shops of Mt Eden village. There are plenty of parks and reserves around the campus, and transport options available to students from almost every suburb of Auckland and the city.

Epsom Campus is a close-knit and multicultural community with around 5,000 students. Class sizes tend to be small and there are plenty of study spaces, computer rooms, staffed support centres and facilities. Other facilities on campus include a new sports centre, a café and the city.

Physical Education Practice 1

The first year of the programme will focus on foundational knowledge in the theoretical and practical areas of physical education and health education. In your final year you are able to select from elective courses such as special needs physical education, dance education, outdoor education, and coaching sport, special needs physical education and coaching sport.

Programme structure

The degree consists of 480 points, made up of:
• 300 points to earn core courses
• 50 points from elective courses
• 50 points (core course) from the General Education curriculum for this degree.

Year One:

In your first year you will study one course from the General Education curriculum available for this degree (50 points) and the following core courses (130 points). All courses are worth 15 points.

EUCORE: 130
Physical Education Practice 1

Introduces students to the practical foundations of physical education. Emphasis is placed on experiential learning and includes a practical component.

Selwyn Hodges moved from Tauranga to study for a Bachelor of Physical Education at The University of Auckland and is in his final year. He plays soccer for the Bay Olympic Premier Team in the Northern Regional Football League.

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"I actually didn’t expect to become a physical education teacher. I started thinking about becoming a PE teacher because I love playing sports and coaching. When I was a young child, I was really into sports and I used to play a lot of different sports. I was really good at sports and I enjoyed it. I started thinking about becoming a PE teacher because I loved playing sports. I enjoyed it. I started thinking about becoming a PE teacher because I loved playing sports. I enjoyed it."
The Professional BPE programme is a unique combination of Health and Physical Education that enables you to study teaching and coaching sport, special needs physical education, special education and physical education leadership.

General Education
The General Education programme is a suitable complement to the University of Auckland bachelors degree and has been designed to give you knowledge and an appreciation of topics outside your major area of study. Possible per subject areas include: human movement and physical culture. Subsequent years build on this foundation, through mastering research and practical skills relating to the prehospital and emergency care environment in the country and internationally.

What you’ll learn
In the third year, you will progressively develop the knowledge and skills required to become a competent physical education teacher, through lectures, seminars and practical experiences.

Programme structure
In the third year of the programme (120 points), you will study the following courses:
- **EDCURRIC 130** Physical Education Practice 1: Introduction to the physical education profession, including an overview of physical education. Emphasis on developing personal knowledge and experience. Addresses such questions as: What does it mean to be a teacher, to be a practitioner of Health and Physical Education, to perform selected physical activities, to apply appropriate technical knowledge to specific physical activities, and to analyse selected movements and motor feedback.
- **EDCURRIC 230** Physical Education Pedagogy: Develops the knowledge, skills and attitudes of future Health and Physical Education teacher candidates through integrating research, theory and practical experience. Emphasis on 10-day internship to be undertaken in schools or other settings in complex environments. Requires development of teaching physical education.
- **EDCURRIC 231** Physical Education Practice 2: Continuing the development of technical and pedagogical skills and knowledge as a Health and Physical Education teacher candidate. Includes applying technical knowledge to a range of additional contexts to develop this work in schools. What knowledge do teachers need in a range of aesthetic and bi-cultural physical education contexts? What does it mean to be a teacher, to be a practitioner of Health and Physical Education. Requires development of teaching physical education.
- **EDCURRIC 232** Special Needs Physical Education: Focuses on special education and physical education. Addresses such questions as: How are notions of aesthetic movement compositions? What knowledge do teachers need in a range of aesthetic and inherent cultural values in learning? Can we provide opportunities for students with special educational needs to develop a healthy physical education identity?
- **EDCURRIC 233** Health and Physical Education: Focuses on health, wellness and physical activity. Addresses such questions as: What knowledge do teachers need in a range of health and physical activity contexts? Can we provide opportunities for students with special educational needs to develop a healthy physical education identity?
- **EDCURRIC 234** Exercise Prescription and Physical Education: Develops an understanding of physical education as a profession, the physical activity and movement education curriculum and related values, bearing down upon the teacher as a facilitator. Addresses such questions as: What knowledge do teachers need in a range of physical education contexts to develop this work in schools? What does it mean to be a teacher, to be a practitioner of Health and Physical Education. Requires development of teaching physical education.
- **EDCURRIC 235** Physical Education Pedagogy: Develops the knowledge, skills and attitudes of future Health and Physical Education teacher candidates through integrating research, theory and practical experience. Emphasis on 10-day internship to be undertaken in schools or other settings in complex environments. Requires development of teaching physical education.
- **EDCURRIC 236** Health and Physical Education: Focuses on health, wellness and physical activity. Addresses such questions as: What knowledge do teachers need in a range of health and physical activity contexts? Can we provide opportunities for students with special educational needs to develop a healthy physical education identity?
- **EDCURRIC 237** Teaching Health and Physical Education: Focuses on health, wellness and physical activity. Addresses such questions as: What knowledge do teachers need in a range of health and physical activity contexts? Can we provide opportunities for students with special educational needs to develop a healthy physical education identity?
- **EDCURRIC 238** Physical Education Pedagogy: Develops the knowledge, skills and attitudes of future Health and Physical Education teacher candidates through integrating research, theory and practical experience. Emphasis on 10-day internship to be undertaken in schools or other settings in complex environments. Requires development of teaching physical education.
- **EDCURRIC 239** Teaching Health and Physical Education: Focuses on health, wellness and physical activity. Addresses such questions as: What knowledge do teachers need in a range of health and physical activity contexts? Can we provide opportunities for students with special educational needs to develop a healthy physical education identity?
- **EDCURRIC 240** Teaching Health and Physical Education: Focuses on health, wellness and physical activity. Addresses such questions as: What knowledge do teachers need in a range of health and physical activity contexts? Can we provide opportunities for students with special educational needs to develop a healthy physical education identity?
- **EDCURRIC 241** Teaching Health and Physical Education: Focuses on health, wellness and physical activity. Addresses such questions as: What knowledge do teachers need in a range of health and physical activity contexts? Can we provide opportunities for students with special educational needs to develop a healthy physical education identity?
- **EDCURRIC 242** Teaching Health and Physical Education: Focuses on health, wellness and physical activity. Addresses such questions as: What knowledge do teachers need in a range of health and physical activity contexts? Can we provide opportunities for students with special educational needs to develop a healthy physical education identity?
- **EDCURRIC 243** Teaching Health and Physical Education: Focuses on health, wellness and physical activity. Addresses such questions as: What knowledge do teachers need in a range of health and physical activity contexts? Can we provide opportunities for students with special educational needs to develop a healthy physical education identity?
- **EDCURRIC 244** Teaching Health and Physical Education: Focuses on health, wellness and physical activity. Addresses such questions as: What knowledge do teachers need in a range of health and physical activity contexts? Can we provide opportunities for students with special educational needs to develop a healthy physical education identity?
- **EDCURRIC 245** Teaching Health and Physical Education: Focuses on health, wellness and physical activity. Addresses such questions as: What knowledge do teachers need in a range of health and physical activity contexts? Can we provide opportunities for students with special educational needs to develop a healthy physical education identity?
- **EDCURRIC 246** Teaching Health and Physical Education: Focuses on health, wellness and physical activity. Addresses such questions as: What knowledge do teachers need in a range of health and physical activity contexts? Can we provide opportunities for students with special educational needs to develop a healthy physical education identity?
- **EDCURRIC 247** Teaching Health and Physical Education: Focuses on health, wellness and physical activity. Addresses such questions as: What knowledge do teachers need in a range of health and physical activity contexts? Can we provide opportunities for students with special educational needs to develop a healthy physical education identity?
- **EDCURRIC 248** Teaching Health and Physical Education: Focuses on health, wellness and physical activity. Addresses such questions as: What knowledge do teachers need in a range of health and physical activity contexts? Can we provide opportunities for students with special educational needs to develop a healthy physical education identity?
The Bachelor of Physical Education (BPE) will qualify you to teach health and physical education at secondary level in schools. As it is a four-year programme, it is classified as an honours degree for (2+2) status at higher learning study level and is a four-year degree in the New Zealand school system. Graduates of the BPE are highly sought after by secondary schools both nationally and internationally.

Career opportunities

Typically, graduates of the BPE teach health and physical education in New Zealand or overseas, but graduates have also gone on to secure roles in tertiary education, advice services, and personal training, outdoor and adventure education programmes, screen tutoring and health education. Officers may go on to postgraduate study, including research. BPE graduates have taught in secondary schools in New Zealand and beyond. They have the leadership, creation, communication, and organisational skills and will have, combined with the prestige that a degree from The University of Auckland will give you, opens up many opportunities and options.

Further study

If you hold a Bachelor of Physical Education degree you can continue with your professional development and maximize your career and salary prospects by accepting postgraduate study. You could then go onto study masters and doctoral level. See our Postgraduate Prospectus for more information.

Money matters

From 2010 will be set late in 2009. As an indication, full time honours fees for this programme for 2009 for a student enrolled full-time in 120 points were:

Current students $4,416
International students $20,640

For information on financial assistance and help to fund your university study visit the Faculty of Education website.

How the year is organized (2010)

Year One, Bachelor of Physical Education

Semester 1

Course Code  Course Title
EDCURRIC 141 The Dance Educator
EDCURRIC 142 Special Study in Health and Physical Education
EDCURRIC 338 Education Outside the Classroom
EDCURRIC 337 Sports Coaching Pedagogy
EDCURRIC 432 Research Project in Health and Physical Education
EDCURRIC 433 The Health Educator

For descriptions of the courses listed see The University of Auckland Calendar, which can be viewed online at www.auckland.ac.nz/calendar

Assessment

Your success throughout the programme is evaluated in a variety of ways. Graded modules are assessed on an A+ to D– scale except for practicum, which is graded with a pass/fail. A variety of assessment tools can be used including group work, practical performance tasks, tests, seminars, essays, exams and units of work, including formative assessment and summative tasks. The use of information and communication technology (ICT) is incorporated into many of the assessment tasks.

Practicum

Practicum is crucial to understanding what it’s really like to be in a school and to teach. The idea of practicum is to give you the opportunity to observe teaching, practice your own skills and discuss relevant issues with practising professionals.

For your students to achieve the highest levels of performance, you will observe small groups and work with individual pupils. As your skills develop, you will work alongside experienced teachers, teach small groups, and eventually teach the whole class for extended periods.

While in schools, you will have the support of associate teachers, a career staff coordinator and your lecturers.

In addition to practicum, you will usually also contribute to an essay in your first, second and fourth years, and a work experience in your second year.

For a true indication of how much it will cost you to study, take a look at the fees for your programme, then factor in costs such as textbooks, accommodation, transport and other living expenses.

Note: Current at time of publication but changes may occur.
I was inspired to pursue this qualification by my physical education teachers at school, and because I enjoy sport, the outdoors and coaching. I also have a real desire to foster people’s strengths and discover potential in the body and its abilities.

Amy Jackson
Bachelor of Physical Education
How do you get in?

The below information applies to New Zealand and Australian citizens, and to permanent residents (non-citizens only). International students should refer to the Admissions Office at The University of Auckland.

**English language requirements**

You must meet certain standards of English language proficiency. You will need proof of English at your first language, or if you have a Film/Television Extension qualification (eg, New Zealand English language proficiency). You must have completed all your studies in English.

**Equity groups of students**

We are committed to providing equal opportunities to all students. All students, regardless of ethnicity, social-economic backgrounds, students with disabilities, or any other group, are encouraged to apply. We particularly encourage people from equity groups, including students from low socio-economic backgrounds, students with disabilities, Māori and Pacific students.

**Admission from New Zealand secondary school qualifications in 2010**

To be admitted to the Bachelor of Physical Education, you must gain the University Entrance Standard and be selected into a programme. All applicants will be ranked. You will also need to complete a 'Supplementary Information Form' which you can download from the University of Auckland website. The faculty may consider your application if there are places available.

**How to apply**

You may apply online at www.auckland.ac.nz or by calling +64 9 373 7513. You will also need to complete a 'Supplementary Information Form' which you can download from the University of Auckland website. The faculty may consider your application if there are places available.

**Additional requirements for all applicants**

Personal references and an interview are part of the selection process. All applicants must meet certain standards of English language proficiency. Offer windows are usually only sent out on request.

To be admitted to this programme, students must also demonstrate the potential to meet the New Zealand Teachers Council (NZTC) criteria for initial registration. This includes language proficiency and being of 'good character and fit to be a teacher'.

**Alternative pathways**

If you don’t meet the admission requirements there are options, including our Foundation Certificate Education, that can help bridge you into the Faculty of Physical Education. You have a qualification from an overseas tertiary institution of an equivalent nature and standard, the faculty may consider your application. Recognition of previous study may be assessed on a case by case basis. For more information about admission, contact the Admissions Office (phone +64 9 373 7513 or ext 85013 or visit www.auckland.ac.nz).