According to the Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI) Standards, knowledge of the following four subject areas represent curriculum standards for elementary teachers:

Reading/Language Arts (ACEI 2.1)
Science (ACEI 2.2)
Math (ACEI 2.3)
Social Studies (ACEI 2.4)

Because candidates in these courses plan and teach lessons to elementary students, they must have knowledge of the content areas. Their course grades reflect their ability to understand, plan, teach, and assess lessons in these content areas.

The courses were originally called “practicum” courses, but due to state changes in terminology, “practicum” courses are for graduate level candidates. In the fall of 2011, the undergraduate courses had a name change to be Block I courses, with the following long semester being Block II, or student teaching.