Secondary Education, A.A.

Degree Offered

• Associate of Arts

Nature of the Program

Secondary Education majors complete the initial course work required to become a certified teacher. Future teachers naturally expect to be responsible for lesson planning, instruction, and assessment in their future classrooms; however, with society's demands for critical thinkers and citizens committed to life-long learning, it is crucial that future educators experience teacher-preparation rich in opportunities to discover the impact of culturally relevant teaching, learner centered classrooms, and integrated curriculum as well as solid communication, management, and organizational classroom skills.

Potomac State College offers direct classroom experience for prospective secondary educators as early as the first semester of study.

Secondary Education teacher education has a two-part focus: the content area (English or Social Studies) and educational design and delivery.

Secondary Education majors who wish to pursue a four-year degree in other content areas (biology, chemistry, math, or physics) should pursue an AA in the content area, complete EDUC 100 their first semester and EDUC 200 their fourth semester, and meet with their secondary education advisor every semester.

Career Opportunities

Four-year graduates teach students from 5th through 12th grades. They usually specialize in one subject area and may teach several different classes within that subject area. Some teachers continue course work in their specific discipline, earning a graduate degree leading to careers in research, higher education, or curriculum development. Others pursue graduate degrees in school administration.

FACULTY

CHAIR

• Cassandra Pritts - M.A. History (Duquesne University)
  Year @ PSC (2011)

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

• Ruth Upton - M.A. Special Education (West Virginia University)
  Year @ PSC (2008)

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

• Andrea Schafer - M.A. Elementary Education (West Virginia University)
  Year @ PSC (2014)

Admissions

Entering freshmen are admitted directly into the major.

Benchmark Expectations

Secondary Education majors should earn a C- or better in EDUC 100 and EDUC 200 to meet degree requirements. Students must demonstrate competence and professionalism, following all College and school district guidelines and policies, in their school-based placement(s). Students must meet with their education adviser each semester. Students who do not meet these benchmarks may be removed from their major.

Testing Requirements

In West Virginia, Praxis Core tests are waived if you have already completed a master's degree OR if you scored 26 on the ACT OR if you scored 1170 on the SAT (Math and Verbal, pre-March 2016 sitting) OR SAT Evidence Based Reading/Writing and Math Section 1240 (post-March 2016 sitting). All other students must earn passing scores (based on score benchmarks for the intended transfer institution) on all subsections of the Praxis Core by the application or transfer deadline set by the intended transfer institution. More information about the Praxis CORE can be found at https://www.ets.org/praxis/about/core/.

Disclaimer: State Board of Education requirements may change testing and program requirements.
General Education Foundations

Please use this link to view a list of courses that meet each GEF requirement. (http://registrar.wvu.edu/gef/)

NOTE: Some major requirements will fulfill specific GEF requirements. Please see the curriculum requirements listed below for details on which GEFs you will need to select.

General Education Foundations

F1 - Composition & Rhetoric 3-6
ENGL 101 Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric
& ENGL 102 and Composition, Rhetoric, and Research
or ENGL 103 Accelerated Academic Writing

F2A/F2B - Science & Technology 4-6
F3 - Math & Quantitative Reasoning 3-4
F4 - Society & Connections 3
F5 - Human Inquiry & the Past 3
F6 - The Arts & Creativity 3
F7 - Global Studies & Diversity 3
F8 - Focus (may be satisfied by completion of a minor, double major, or dual degree) 9

Total Hours 31-37

Please note that not all of the GEF courses are offered at all campuses. Students should consult with their advisor or academic department regarding the GEF course offerings available at their campus.

Curriculum Requirements

WVUE 191 First Year Seminar 1
ENGL 101 Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric 6
& ENGL 102 and Composition, Rhetoric, and Research (GEF 1)
EDUC 100 Education Colloquium 1
EDUC 200 Professional Inquiry in Education 3
Foreign Language 12
MATH 121 Intro Concepts Of Mathematics (or higher - GEF 3) 3

Select one of the following tracks: 34

English Track (34 credit hours)

GEF 2A
GEF 4
GEF 5
GEF 7
ENGL 200 Foundations of Literary Study
ENGL 226 World Literature
ENGL 241 American Literature 1 (GEF 6)
ENGL 242 American Literature 2 (GEF 8)
ENGL 262 British Literature 2
ENGL 263 Shakespeare 1 (GEF 8)
Elective

Social Studies Track (34 credit hours)

HIST 152 Growth of the American Nation to 1865 (GEF 5)
HIST 153 Making of Modern America: 1865 to the Present
HIST 179 World History to 1500 (GEF 8)
HIST 180 World History Since 1500 (or HIST 250)
ECON 201 Principles of Microeconomics (GEF 8)
ECON 202 Principles of Macroeconomics (GEF 8)
GEOG 102 World Regions
GEOG 107 Global Climate System
& 107L and Global Climate System Laboratory (GEF 2B)
POLS 102  Introduction to American Government
PSYC 101  Introduction to Psychology (GEF 4)
ANTH 105  Introduction to Anthropology (GEF 7)

Total Hours 60

Suggested Plan of Study for English Track

First Year

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Total credit hours: 60

Suggested Plan of Study for Social Studies Track

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Total credit hours: 60

Major Learning Outcomes

SECONDARY EDUCATION

A primary mission of the AA in Secondary Education at Potomac State College is to prepare individuals for a changing teaching profession. Teachers influence many facets of education including students, parents, school policies and procedures, curriculum design, instructional materials, and
classroom environment. Educational issues must be grounded in current research on best practices and deep reflection on ways to implement them in teaching practice.

Upon successful completion of the A.A. degree, **Secondary Education** majors will be able to:

- Utilize commitment and skills to engage in life-long learning, including research skills applied to the discipline;
- Practice effective communication; both oral and written;
- Recognize that teaching is a professional, moral, and ethical enterprise with well-developed ethical frameworks which facilitate effective teaching;
- Serve as facilitators of learning for all students;
- Apply in-depth knowledge of both pedagogy and content, and the relationship between them
- Be reflective practitioners;
- Be aware of, and have respect, human diversity;
- Value and integrate knowledge from a wide variety of fields, be creative and open to new ideas, and be able to act constructively in a world characterized by technological, cultural, and societal diversity and change.