Department of Curriculum and Instruction

Program Description

The Department of Curriculum & Instruction/Literacy Studies offers opportunities for undergraduate study, leading to degrees in Elementary and Secondary Education. In addition, some of our programs are designed for educators and other professionals with educational leadership responsibilities. The primary purposes of the various programs in our department are to provide increased knowledge, skills, research, and professional competencies for licenses related to each specialty area in the department. Program area faculty work with national accreditation standards for each of their programs, and contribute to the profession at university, state, and national levels of professional involvement. The experiences available through our various programs involve exploration of technology, diversity, global initiatives, and culturally responsive teaching, facilitated by faculty who are leaders in research, teaching, and service.

Program Options

The College of Education and Human Services (CEHS) offers a variety of paths toward initial teacher certification beginning at the undergraduate level. This includes a Four-Year Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree program in Elementary Education and a Five-Year Teacher Education Program that leads to dual-conferred Bachelors and Masters degrees in either Elementary or Secondary Ed. Each of these paths are designed to lead to the following certification areas:

Elementary Education (K-6):

- Four-Year BA in Elementary Education
- Five-Year BMDS (Bachelor of Multi-Disciplinary Studies)/MA in Elementary Education

Secondary Education (5-Adult):

- Five Year BA or BMDS/ MA in Secondary Education

For more information, please visit our website: http://cils.wvu.edu/.

General Requirements for Professional Certification

Individual candidates apply for professional certification. To teach in the public schools of West Virginia, one must hold a professional teaching license issued by the West Virginia Department of Education. Individual candidates must be recommended by the Certification Officer in CEHS, Michael Sekula, to the State of West Virginia for a professional teaching license. To be eligible to be recommended to the State, students must do the following:

- Meet the minimum State requirements
- Meet the University degree requirements
- Successfully complete program coursework
- Achieve a grade point average of at least 2.75 on the total of college credits earned, on the hours earned in professional education, and 2.5 in each subject specialization.
- Demonstrate competence in supervised practicum and internship.
- Comply with the West Virginia Board of Education regulations for teacher certification.
- Be recommended for certification by the dean of the College of Education and Human Services.

Reciprocal Certification Agreements

West Virginia, at the time of this publication, has reciprocal agreements with certain other states for teacher certification. Inquiries about reciprocity should be directed to the Center for Student Advising and Records, 710 Allen Hall.

Calculation of Grade Point Averages

The West Virginia State Department of Education system of calculating grade point averages for certification purposes differs in some respects from the WVU system. For certification, all coursework attempted at WVU and at other institutions of collegiate rank will be considered. If a student earns a grade of D, F, or U in any course taken no later than the term when he or she has attempted a total of sixty hours, and the student repeats this course, the second grade earned will be used in determining the grade point average. The first grade will be disregarded.

The teacher education program uses the West Virginia State Department of Education system of calculating grade point averages only for admission to teacher education programs and professional internships, and for assessing teaching field and education averages. Academic performance and eligibility for graduation are assessed by the system used by WVU and other institutions governed by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission.
Admission to Pre-Education

Program Description

High school students interested in teaching careers should seek admission to the pre-education program when applying to the University. Students may also seek admission to pre-education at any point between entry and successful completion of 59 hours of approved University coursework. To be admitted to pre-education, a student must have an ACT score of 22, an SAT math and verbal combined score of 1030, or a high school GPA of 3.0. Students transferring into teacher education must also have an acceptable University GPA. Since formal admission into teacher education cannot occur until 59 hours have been completed, those students admitted to education are designated pre-education students; the general admission requirements for teacher education are described below.

Admission Process

Applications for admission to teacher education are accepted and reviewed in the spring semester. Students are normally admitted to teacher education in the fourth semester. The credentials of qualified pre-education students from WVU and WVU Potomac State College will be reviewed by the Admissions Committee, and students are admitted to the specialization of their choice in order of decreasing portfolio scores until the specialization reaches its capacity. If space is not available in the preferred specialization, students may elect to be considered for another specialization or compete for admission in the following year. Minority students may be given special consideration for admission to the major.

Remediation Options

Students who do not meet the skill-proficiency requirements listed under General Requirements for Admission may avail themselves of the numerous remediation options on campus, including the Reading and Study Skills Laboratory and the Teaching and Learning Technologies Center.

Work Taken at Other Institutions

Required professional education courses must ordinarily be taken at WVU. Students who wish to take required courses at other NCATE accredited institutions must have their courses approved by the department chairperson before registering at another institution.

Admission to the Five-Year Teacher Education Program

Students are admitted to Five-Year education program only in the spring semester. Admissions to teacher education are limited. Within both elementary and secondary education, enrollment is limited to the capacities of specific content areas. Pre-education students are advised to consult with advisors regarding the availability of the specializations in which they are most interested.