

Western Washington University

Woodring College of Education

Elementary Endorsement Program

General Information and FAQ's

Program Information

This 68/69-credit program is designed for practicing teachers who hold an endorsable Washington State Teaching Certificate and wish to obtain an additional endorsement in elementary education. The program provides coherent preparation in all areas of the elementary education curriculum as well as practicum experiences. Successful completion of the entire program results in Western's recommendation for the K-8 Elementary Endorsement.

Admission & Retention

Admissions information may be found at our website at <http://wce.wwu.edu/Depts/TEOP/ELEDEndorsement/> Requirements for acceptance into the program are:

- Washington State Teaching Certificate
- Cumulative grade point average of 2.75 or higher overall or for the last 45 quarter credits or 30 semester credits. Students with a cumulative G.P.A. between 2.75 and 2.99 may petition the Department for a review of transcript.
- Pre-admissions interview may be required

Retention in the program requires continuous demonstration of competence in standard oral and written English in all course work. Retention also requires maintenance of a 2.75 quarterly GPA for each quarter after admission to the Woodring College. The State of Washington requires students to earn a "C" or better in all endorsement courses and WWU extends this requirement to all professional education courses.

Non-admitted students

Pre-service teachers or individuals wishing to attain their pre-requisites prior to formal acceptance into the program may attend with permission from the Program Director.

Prerequisites

Math Competency

As a WWU elementary endorsement student, you will be required to take Math 381, **Teaching K-8 Mathematics I**, Math 382, **Teaching K-8 Mathematics II**, and Math 383, **Teaching K-8 Mathematics III** to satisfy requirements for teacher certification. You must pass Math 381 with a C or better in order to enroll in Math 382. Both courses are offered within the curriculum of the extension program, with Math 381 offered as early as the second quarter of the program.

Math 381 has a prerequisite which must be met prior to program entry in one of these five ways:

1. Obtain a score of 20 or better on the 35 question Intermediate Mathematics Placement Test.
2. Obtain a grade of C or better in **Math 102** at WWU **within the last 5 years.**

3. Obtain a C or better in an Intermediate Algebra, College Algebra, or Pre-Calculus course at a college or university **within the last 5 years**.
4. Obtain a waiver from the WWU Math Department Chair for receiving a C or better in at least one college level calculus course equivalent to **Math 124** at WWU.
5. Obtain a waiver from the WWU Math Department Chair for scoring three (3) or higher on the CEEB's Advanced Placement Calculus exam.

Registration

Registration is done quarterly via a paper registration form (new or returning students) provided by the Program Coordinator or through Web4U (continuing-active students) once override permission has been given. Course add/drop information, and other important registration dates, will be distributed to students at the beginning of each quarter. Contact Joanna Reynoso, Program Assistant, 360-650-6292 for registration questions.

Course Sequencing and Requirements

See information program prerequisites above. Elementary education endorsement students can take classes in the order outlined in the BAE in Elementary Education with Coursework toward Special Education Endorsement master schedule.

Program Completion-Testing

Washington State requires teacher candidates and teachers adding an endorsement to pass a subject knowledge assessment for each chosen endorsement. This assessment is entitled the Washington Educator Skills Test - Endorsements (WEST E).

<http://www.wce.wvu.edu/Resources/Endorsements/WEST-E.shtml>

FAQ's – Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I find information online for the program?

<http://wce.wvu.edu/Depts/TEOP/ELEDEndorsement/>

Do I have to take the WEST-B Basic Skills Test before being accepted into your program?

No, there is an exit exam, the West-E. <http://www.wce.wvu.edu/Resources/Endorsements/WEST-E.shtml>

Will I be interviewed prior to being accepted into the program?

A pre-admission interview may be required.

Can I apply Elementary Education credits earned at another university to this program?

On a case by case basis credit may be transferred after the student has engaged in a series of pretests, produced copies of any ELED syllabi and course description detailing the content of the course they completed, and produced the names of contact people who can detail program and course information at the university where the credits were earned. With that information in hand, a determination will be made on what credits transfer and what classes and practica remain for the student to complete in the program. A student will not earn WWU credit for such, but may fulfill course requirements.

How Do I Meet HQT?

The federal *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) of 2001 requires teachers to meet the definition of Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) to teach a core academic subject (English/language arts, reading, math, science, world languages, civics and government, economics, history, geography, visual arts, music, dance, and theatre). Teachers assigned to grades K-5 or self-contained grade 6 meet HQT for all core academic subjects by passing the WEST-E test in Elementary Education. Teachers assigned to classrooms at the middle level meet HQT through one of the following: 45 credits, a major, a degree, National Board certification, or a passing score on the WEST-E test in the applicable core academic subject. Link to the WWU Highly Qualified Teacher website for information:

<http://www.wce.wvu.edu/Resources/Certification/Res/HQT.shtml>

Where can I find information on scholarship opportunities:

<http://www.hecb.wa.gov/paying/waaidprgm/future.asp>

The Future Teachers Conditional Scholarship and Loan Repayment program is designed to encourage outstanding students and paraprofessionals to become teachers, and to encourage current teachers to obtain additional endorsements in teacher shortage subjects. In return for conditional scholarships or loan repayments, participants agree to teach in Washington K-12 public schools.

Can I get financial aid?

Students that apply and are accepted as a Western Washington University Post-Bac student may apply for financial aid. A student must attend the program at least part-time (6 credits per quarter) to qualify for part-time benefits. Spaces on the Bellingham campus are at a premium, so while the WWU Department of Admissions tries to admit all students we want to accept, it may not always happen. Western's focus, by design, is on students who want to earn their first bachelor's degree. Students admitted by Western, must reapply to Western if they don't enroll for one or more quarters. For any financial aid questions, please visit the Financial Aid Office website at

<http://www.finaid.wvu.edu/finaid/>.

I don't understand the difference between applying to Western and applying to your program.

What is it? WWU Matriculation vs. Program Acceptance

A student may elect to apply for admission to Western Washington University along with a request for acceptance into the Special Education Endorsement Program. Students who are granted WWU

admission have financial aid opportunities, lower registration costs, and registration priority. Students who have been accepted into the endorsement only program without WWU matriculation, register for class on a space available basis (see SPAN information) and pay course fees dictated by SPAN.

What does SPAN stand for?

SPAN stands for “Space Available for Non-matriculated students.” A non-matriculated student (not admitted to WWU) will take classes on a space available basis. The first day a class is in session, SPAN students will attend class with a form, seeking signature permission from the instructor to register for the class. SPAN students pay a higher per-credit rate than matriculated students.

Will I be taking courses as part of a cohort?

Yes and no. Students at our Outreach sites will take classes alongside an existing Elementary Education cohort, but Elementary Endorsement-only students will not be in a cohort. Students in Bellingham take classes with Elementary Education students earning their initial teaching certificate.

Can I complete all of the courses required at my home site?

Yes, unless the course is not available at your home site when you need it. Some online classes may require travel to another site for one class session.

Do I need to take courses in a particular sequence?

Upon advisement, pre-requisites need to be taken at the beginning of the program.

How much practicum experience is included in the endorsement?

A total of 9 credits of practicum experience are part of the endorsement program.

Is there an application fee?

Not at this time.

How long does earning a Elementary Education endorsement take?

Depends on the amount of previous required coursework is completed and the course availability at each site.

Are any credits for the endorsement transferable to a Master’s Degree?

For questions regarding transferable credits to a Master’s Degree please contact the intended graduate program directly.

Do any credits apply toward professional certification?

If a student’s Professional Growth plan indicates Elementary Education as the area of study, they can take up to 7 credits of Elementary Education classes as approved electives.

Where can I find more information on certification/endorsements for teachers?

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