

Western Washington University
Woodring College of Education
Teacher Education Outreach Programs
BAE in Education with Coursework toward Special Education Endorsement
Frequently Asked Questions

Western Washington University, Teacher Education Outreach Programs, offers professional education programs that lead to recommendation to the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction for residency certification in the state of Washington. This unit offers courses and certification on Western's main campus and at the outreach sites in Bremerton, Everett, and Seattle. The sequence of study is designed for students who hold a transferable Associate of Arts degree (DTA) from a Washington State community college, have satisfied Western's General University Requirements, or have a bachelor's degree and are seeking certification. Students begin the program in the fall, and using a cohort model, move through the program together.

What degree and/or certification will I earn in this program?

Upon completion of the program, students will earn a:

- a) Bachelor of Arts in Education, with a residency teacher certificate and an elementary education endorsement, or
- b) Bachelor of Arts in Education, with a residency teacher certificate, and dual endorsements in special and elementary education, or
- c) A Post-Baccalaureate residency teacher certificate with elementary education endorsement.

What if I'm a certified teacher and want a special education endorsement?

We offer a 45-credit special education endorsement for certified teachers. Classes are taken in the evening with undergraduate special education majors.

How are classes scheduled?

Students complete approximately 12 credits per quarter requiring 3-4 nights/week of classroom attendance. Classes are primarily held evenings, fall through summer, 5:00 or 5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. or 9:30p.m., in local community college classrooms.

- **Undergraduate** – Approximately 148 credits over 11 quarters
- **Post-Baccalaureate** - Approximately 99 quarter credit hours spread over 7 quarters
- **Additional Special Education Endorsement** - Approximately 12 quarters (which includes an optional 16 credit Special Education internship)
- **Face-to-Face and/or Online** – Most classes are held in a classroom setting with the possibility of some online instruction. On occasion, an entire class may be offered online.

When can I apply to the program and the university?

April 1st is the priority application date for all Teacher Education Outreach Program sites. All final admission decisions must be made by July 1st. Admission is dependent on forming viable cohorts of students. Candidates who have completed all admissions requirements and have submitted completed applications by April 1st will be given priority when cohorts are being formed.

Because the reception of official transcripts may be delayed, in order to facilitate the admission process, candidates should be prepared to submit copies of all transcripts to the program coordinator at their site by April 1st. *All transcripts must be included with applications, even if candidates took only one or two classes at a college or university.*

For admissions information and to request an application packet (WWU and program specific) contact a Program Coordinator at the site nearest to you.

Bremerton: Michael White – 360-475-7269

Everett: Sue Burke – 425-259-8918

Seattle: Laurie Roberts – 206-529-6052

Special Education endorsement: Joanna Reynoso – 360-650-6292

Elementary Education endorsement: Joanna Reynoso – 360-650-6292

What are admission requirements?

1. Complete WWU GURs, a Direct Transfer AA, or a Bachelor's Degree
2. Grade point average, overall or last 45 credits, of 2.75 or higher
3. Math prerequisite (see below)
4. Satisfaction of WEST-B requirement (see more information on next page)
5. English composition course with a grade of B- or higher

What is the math pre-requisite?

You will be required to take Math 381, Math 382, and Math 383 to satisfy requirements for teacher certification. The Math 381 prerequisite can be met in one of the following ways:

1. Obtain a grade of C or better in an Intermediate Algebra, College Algebra or Pre-Calculus course at a regionally accredited college or university within the last five years.
2. Obtain a grade of C or better in Western's MATH 112 within the last five years.
3. Obtain a score of 20 or higher on the Intermediate Mathematics Placement Test (IMPT). The IMPT is offered at WWU's Testing Center in Bellingham, or the University of Washington Testing Center.

Why do I need to demonstrate competency in Intermediate Algebra content, when I intend to be a teacher at the elementary level?

WWU's Woodring College of Education deemed it a necessity to prepare elementary education teachers to higher standards of skill and knowledge in the areas of math and science. Students may never teach an algebra course, but they will be preparing students for learning algebra. Furthermore, the professional standards in mathematics established by both the State of Washington and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics stress the teaching of algebraic ideas beginning with the early primary grades.

Does the State require a pre-admission test?

Students being admitted to teacher education programs in the State of Washington must have official passing scores on the WEST-B (Washington Educator Skills Test-Basic) and designate WWU as a score recipient. The West-B is offered six times a year at various sites in the state. The WEST-B consists of three separate subtests: Reading, Mathematics, and Writing. Applications of candidates who have successfully completed only two of the three sections may have their applications placed on hold, and can be provisionally admitted as a non-matriculating student until the third section of the WEST-B has been successfully completed. For more information visit: <http://www.west.nesinc.com>.

Where can I find information on transfer equivalencies?

Both prospective and current students can look up detailed information regarding course equivalencies at the community colleges online Transfer Equivalency Guide https://www.admin.wvu.edu/pls/wwis/wwsktcat.TE_Catalog

Are Fee Reduction and Tuition Waivers available?

Most of our programs are self-supporting. Tuition fees vary by site and program. Fee reductions and tuition waivers are not applicable to courses within self supporting programs. Programs operated at the University Center of North Puget Sound in Everett are state-supported. For information on general university tuition waivers that may be applicable to state-supported programs, go to www.acadweb.wvu.edu/studentaccounts/tf5.shtml.

I'm a Post-Bac student. What are the approved majors for this program?

Anthropology, Art, Biology, Communication, Education, English, Elementary Education Studies, Environmental Studies, Foreign Language, General Science, Geography, Geology, History, Humanities, Mathematics, Music, Psychology, Social Studies, Sociology, and Special Education.

How much are course costs and fees?

To request updated registration and course fees please contact a Program Coordinator.

When do I need to apply for financial aid?

Western's academic year is from fall through spring quarter. You must complete the FAFSA for each academic year. If you have any questions please call the Financial Aid Office at 360-650-3470, or email sfr@cc.wvu.edu. Western's Financial Aid Office: <http://www.finaid.wvu.edu/finaid/> Federal Student Financial Aid (FAFSA): <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>

Western's Financial Aid Code: 003802

If going to summer session is a required part of the program, will I be able to use my financial aid?

Summer financial aid eligibility is limited to any unused annual eligibility in:

- Direct Loan (undergrads & grads)

- Pell (for Pell grant recipients -undergrads only)

- Grad PLUS (for Graduate students) -up to the estimated cost of attendance

- PLUS (Federal Plus loan for parents of undergraduates)

- Alternative Educational Loans (loans that undergrads & grads can take from a private lender)

In short, while loans are a form of financial aid, summer aid is limited to loans, with the exception of the small number of summer Pell recipients.

Getting the right answer to the student requires a case-by-case review of their file by the Financial Aid office, <http://www.finaid.wvu.edu/>.

Are there scholarships available through WWU?

Scholarships are available and are listed on our website. It is also recommended that you access any search engine and search for "Educational Scholarships" as there are scholarships available through sources other than WWU. Students who are enrolled in or are applying to self-sustaining courses or programs should contact the Scholarship Center for specific eligibility requirements. Self-supporting courses may not meet the eligibility requirements for all scholarships offered through the Scholarship Center.

Once I'm admitted to Woodring, what else do I need to do besides take classes?

You will need to complete the Washington State fingerprint check and complete Part I of a Prevention of Sexual Harassment workshop, which is offered online. Once cleared, the fingerprinting will be valid for two years. You may need to renew your fingerprinting clearance in time for your student internship. A character and fitness check will need to be done before you can register for any practicum taking place in public schools.

Can you tell me about fingerprinting and State Patrol/FBI background checks?

A completed Character Fitness Questionnaire a receipt indicating that you completed the Washington State Patrol (WSP) fingerprinting along with the results of the WSP background check are all required prior to a student engaging in field experiences or other service learning activities associated with the academic program.

What is the difference between an "Elementary Education" endorsement" and a "K-8 Elementary Education" endorsement?

There is no difference between an "Elementary Education" endorsement and a "K-8 Elementary Education" endorsement. Although the state eliminated grade levels from the endorsement listed on all

teaching certificates issued 9/1/2000 and later, classroom assignment policies are prescribed through a specific rule, which specifically states:

Classroom teachers with initial, residency, endorsed continuing, or professional teacher certificates who have an elementary education endorsement may be assigned to teach any subject in grades K-8.

Although you are authorized by the state to teach K-8, you must also meet the federal Highly Qualified Teacher requirement to teach core academic subjects at the middle level. Please see the next question on “Highly Qualified Teacher” requirements.

How will the “Highly Qualified Teacher” requirements affect an Elementary Education endorsement?

Teacher education programs must meet both State and Federal standards. To teach core academic subjects in the middle school grades, school districts are now required by federal mandate to recruit only “Highly Qualified Teachers” (HQT). Applicable Federal HQT definition requires either 45 credits in the academic subject area or a passing WEST-E test score in the subject area.

One option for ELED students wishing to teach in middle school is to prepare for the WEST-E test applicable to their area of interest. Please go to the HQT webpage (link below) which provides contextual information and updates. Also, from there, you may access a guide for how you can meet both State and Federal HQT requirements.

Dana Edward, WCE’s Director of Certification and Accreditation, will provide individual advising to anyone who needs assistance in assessing their options. Contact Ms. Edward if your question is not addressed on the webpage: <http://www.wce.wvu.edu/Resources/Certification/Res/HQT.shtml>

How will taking all of the required Special Education classes prepare me for teaching in a regular classroom?

The trend toward inclusion of students with special needs in the regular classroom coupled with shifting demographic patterns and the growth of poverty in the U.S. has blurred the boundaries between "regular" and "special" education. Today's teachers in both regular and Special Education classrooms must be prepared to address the diverse learning needs of students, regardless of the nature of student learning needs or the existence of a formal classification in Special Education. For general education teaching positions, school districts typically give preference to candidates who have completed a Special Education major.

Can you tell me about the program’s student teaching requirements?

The final quarter of the program will culminate in a full-time student teaching internship. The calendar for the internship will be set by each individual site. During the student teaching internship, student teachers are required to be in the assigned classroom full time. Unless given specific approval, interns are not to take coursework or hold a job during the internship. Please visit <http://www.wce.wvu.edu/Resources/OFE/> for additional information.

Are there practical teaching experiences other than the student teaching internship?

Practicum field instruction, designed to give students a supervised practical application of their coursework, is an integral part of our teacher training program. Practical teaching experiences, spread throughout the program, covering all subject areas, are held at various times during the day - fall through spring quarters.

Why are there multiple practica?

State standards require education students to acquire classroom experience at the very beginning of their training. This will give them a sense of whether or not they have the commitment and temperament for teaching, as well lending students the opportunity for applying their academic training to the classrooms.

May I take classes at other WWU Teacher Education Outreach Program sites?

Students may not take classes at a WWU Teacher Education Outreach Program (TEOP) site other than their home site without the permission of their Academic Program Director and the Program Director of Outreach Programs.

As there are differences in tuition and in the registration process across sites, it is essential students work with their Academic Program Directors when making such requests.

One important qualification is that the availability of specific courses at other sites may not coincide with the home site schedule of classes, i.e., class time conflicts are inevitable. Failing to take even a single class with the cohort may have unforeseen repercussions for the individual student, and WWU is under no obligation to ensure all classes are available to all students at all times. We will do our best, but make no guarantees.

It is always preferable to keep with the sequence of classes as scheduled for the student's own cohort.

As an undergraduate, may I select a major other than Special Education?

The short answer is no, but here's why.

On the main campus in Bellingham, Western Washington University and Woodring College of Education offer several program options for students seeking a Bachelor of Arts in Education with teacher certification and a range of majors. Special Education is one of these majors. In the fall of 2006, WWU made the Special Education major available to students in the Elementary Education program located at the various Teacher Education Outreach Program sites. At that time, math and science coursework and practica were also enhanced in a comprehensive response to local, state, and national calls for more highly qualified teachers. The adoption of the Special Education major with enhanced math and science, allows our teacher candidates to develop a sound pedagogical background towards meeting the needs of all students in our increasingly inclusive general education classrooms. Thus, another way to look at this major is its "marketability" when compared to other majors.

Other majors are not offered at our TEOP sites in Bremerton, Everett, and Seattle due to the prohibitive cost of replicating all WWU's colleges and departments at each site.

If I complete the Special Education major, will I have to become a special education teacher?

Taking the Special Education major does not mean program completers must become special education teachers. In fact, the majority of our students accept general education positions. The reason for this is that school districts are looking for general educators with extensive preparation in special education, given that academically diverse classrooms are becoming the norm rather than the exception. In this sense, school district employers view "special education" as synonymous with "effective teaching."

I have heard it is really difficult to get admitted into WWU's teacher education programs. Is this true?

WWU and Woodring College of Education require all teacher education candidates to meet high professional standards. This is one of the many reasons why graduates of WWU's teacher education programs are recognized for excellence throughout the state and the region. WWU has long adopted uniform admission requirements for all WWU sites, and admission into our programs is competitive. Applicants who are successful in seeking admission to WWU's teacher education

programs have done their homework well with respect to admission requirements, and many have consulted with site faculty and staff throughout the application process.

Are there any options for the year long internship?

In keeping with internship options offered through the Special Education department's Elementary and Special Education Dual Endorsement program in Bellingham, the following internship options are available to TEOP undergraduates in the BAE Special Education major and to TEOP post baccalaureate students in the Elementary teacher certification program offered at WWU's sites in Bremerton, Everett, and Seattle. Students should carefully consider these options prior to meeting with staff from Office of Field Experience (OFE). Students must be prepared to select an option when meeting with OFE staff one year prior to the year long internship. Year long internship placements will then be made with school districts based on student selection of options. Undergraduates will select their internship option at the beginning of their second year of the program at a meeting scheduled by OFE staff.

Note: Students selecting Options 1 and 3 (see below), who later decide at some point in the future to complete the second internship in order to earn the additional endorsement, are not guaranteed admission and an internship placement. Admission requirements may change over time, and internship placements must be made well in advance.

Undergraduate Students:

OPTION 1: BAE Special Education Major, Teacher Certification, Elementary Endorsement ONLY

Starting in fall quarter of their final year, students will be placed for the school year in a general education classroom, completing the SPED 482 practicum in the fall (math focus), followed by the SPED 481 practicum in winter quarter (literacy II focus), and concluding with the ELED 494 Internship in spring quarter. This is often referred to as a year-long placement or internship. Students will complete the SCED 490 Laboratory Experience as part of the internship. The laboratory experience together with the internship will total 16 credits. Students will complete elementary and special education competencies by working with students facing various challenges in the classroom regardless of formal classifications, and in keeping with the intent of the program which is to prepare thoughtful, knowledgeable, and effective teachers who can address the needs of all students in today's diverse classrooms.

OPTION 2: BAE Special Education Major, Teacher Certification, Elementary Endorsement, Special Education Endorsement

Part 1. Fall and winter practica and spring internship as in Option 1.

Part 2. After completing the elementary education internship in a general education classroom, students will return in fall quarter to complete a 16 credit internship in a special education setting. Students will complete additional special education competencies by working with students with identified special needs.

Note: In terms of candidate "marketability" for employment, this is the preferable option according to school district personnel. Employment data from WWU "first year out" surveys suggests nearly 100% of dual endorsement students were employed in full time teaching positions at the time of the survey.

OPTION # 3: BAE Special Education Major, Teacher Certification, Special Education Endorsement ONLY

Starting in fall quarter of their final year, students will be placed in a special education classroom, completing the SPED 482 practicum, followed by the SPED 481 practicum in winter quarter, and concluding with the SPED 498 Internship in spring quarter. This is often referred to as a year-long placement or internship. Students will complete the SCED 490 Laboratory Experience as part of the internship. The laboratory experience together with the internship will total 16 credits. Students will complete all Special Education competencies by working with students with identified special needs.

Note: In their final year, interested students may ask for a preliminary transcript review, and an evaluation of documents related to experience in special education settings prior to and/or during their WWU teacher certification program. This preliminary review would be specific to completing the Special Education endorsement after graduation. Students may direct all inquiries to Denise Blair, Program Coordinator, Special Education Endorsement Program.

Post Baccalaureate Students:

Teacher Certification, Elementary Endorsement

Starting in fall quarter of their second and final year, post baccalaureate students will be placed for the school year in a general education classroom, completing the SPED 440 practicum in the fall, followed by the ELED 479 practicum in winter quarter, and concluding with the ELED 494 Internship in spring quarter. This is often referred to as a year-long placement or internship. Students will complete the SCED 490 Laboratory Experience as part of the internship. The laboratory experience together with the internship will total 16 credits. Students will complete all elementary and some special education competencies by working with students facing various challenges in the classroom regardless of formal classifications, and once again in keeping with the intent of the program to prepare thoughtful, knowledgeable, and effective teachers who can address the needs of all students in today's diverse classrooms.

What is the difference between a Special Education *major* and a Special Education *endorsement*?

Students seeking a Bachelor of Arts in Education must have a major, and the Special Education major is the only major now offered to undergraduates at WWU's Teacher Education Outreach Program sites in Bremerton, Everett, and Seattle.

WWU also offers a Special Education endorsement to certified teachers wishing to obtain qualifications to teach in a special education setting. Only certified teachers may seek to add a Special Education endorsement to their teaching credentials. With a few exceptions, the coursework and practica offered in the Special Education major is comparable to that which is offered in the endorsement. For the most part, undergraduate Special Education majors and certified teachers seeking a Special Education endorsement attend the same classes. For students in the undergraduate Bachelor of Arts in Education program, it is possible to earn the Special Education endorsement, *in addition to the Special Education major*, by completing a second internship in a special education setting.

WEST-E Questions

What is the WEST-E test and will I have to take it?

Prior to their student teacher quarter (internship), students seeking teacher certification must pass the knowledge assessment for each subject in which they are seeking an endorsement. There is no limit to the number of times a student can take the WEST-E. Visit the following website for full information on this test: <http://www.wce.wvu.edu/Resources/Endorsements/WEST-E.shtml>

I know I have to pass the WEST-E prior to the internship, and I know the more coursework I have the better prepared I will be. So when should I take the WEST-E?

Plan to take the WEST-E early enough so that you can take it at least one more time prior to the start of the internship if you do not pass all sections the first time, and considering the score availability date. Current year and next year test dates and score availability dates are on the test websites below.

http://www.west.nesinc.com/WA7_testdates.asp

http://www.west.nesinc.com/WA_ann09testdates.asp

I expect to complete my Elementary internship by the end of spring quarter next year, and I want to sign up for the WEST-E this July. Is this too early?

Candidates are prepared primarily by their GUR and high school coursework so their best test preparation is the study guide/sample questions and reviewing elementary text books on the content. However our methods courses do touch on content as well.

- Undergraduates interning in spring will have their GURs completed so the July test is not too early.
- Post-baccalaureate students may want to wait until the November test date but they should plan to take the WEST-E no later than the January test date.

I have heard that there is a new Special Education WEST-E. Should I sign up to take the old SPED Praxis or the new SPED WEST-E?

Students will need to take the new SPED WEST-E. This new test will be implemented in fall 2009. Although the test developers probably will not have test scores validated by the state until December 2009, students will still have time to retake the test before the SPED internship. This information can be viewed on Woodring's WEST-E Resource Site through the following link:

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

There is also a direct link to the implementation guide:

<http://www.wce.wvu.edu/Resources/Endorsements/WEST-E/WEST-EImplementation0309.pdf>

If I am planning on taking the SPED internship in the fall, when should I take the SPED WEST-E?

Plan to take the SPED WEST-E in sufficient time to receive a passing score before the spring Elementary internship to avoid having to think about the test and prepare for it during the internship. Remember, there is only one WEST-E test opportunity during the summer, so if you wait until then to take the test, there is no back up testing date if you fail to pass all sections of the WEST-E. Remember, you cannot start the SPED internship without first passing all sections of the SPED WEST-E.

BAE Without Certification Question

I have heard that I can apply for a Bachelors in Education (BAE) without certification in order to graduate with my cohort, and then come back and do my Elementary internship sometime later when it is more convenient for me. Is this true?

The BAE without certification is typically made available only to students who do not wish to become certified, preferring instead a career in education that does not include classroom teaching. Students requesting a BAE without certification are required to submit a petition in the fall or winter prior to the spring internship quarter. Students graduating with a BAE without certification who later change their minds may reapply to WWU. There is no guarantee of readmission to WWU. Because teacher education requirements change over time, students who are readmitted will be subject to program requirements current upon readmission. Additional classes may have to be taken, and additional state requirements may have to met prior to the internship.

I have more questions that are not addressed here. Who can answer my specific questions?

Information nights are offered numerous times at each site for more detailed information, and question and answer opportunities. Individuals interested in obtaining specific information should contact the Program Coordinator for schedules of information sessions.

To receive this documentation in an alternate format, please call 360-650-2425