UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS OF STUDY
WITHIN THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

EARLY AND MIDDLE GRADES EDUCATION
B.S.Ed., Early Grades Preparation, PK-4
B.S.Ed., Middle Grades Preparation, 4-8
Minors: Early Childhood Education; Elementary Education

LITERACY
Required courses in the teacher certification program
Minor in Reading

PROFESSIONAL AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
B.S.Ed., Secondary Education with individualized concentrations in Biology, Chemistry, English, Earth-Space Science, French, Physics, Spanish
Certifications: Elective Social Studies, General Science
Minor in Professional Education

SPECIAL EDUCATION
B.S.Ed., Special Education, PK-8/B.S.Ed. Middle Grades Prep, 4-8 (dual major)
B.S.Ed., Special Education, 7-12/B.S.Ed. in secondary content area, 7-12 (dual major with Biology, Chemistry, Earth-Space Science, English, Mathematics, or Physics)
B.S.Ed., Special Education, 7-12/B.A. History with Social Studies Certification (dual degree)
B.S.Ed., Special Education, 7-12/Teacher Certification in General Science, 7-12 (dual certification)
Minor: Special Education

ABOUT WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY
A comprehensive, public institution, West Chester University offers high-quality undergraduate and graduate degree programs in more than 100 subject areas, as well as certification programs. As the second largest member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, West Chester offers a full and rewarding educational experience as well as reasonable tuition; the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania provides more than $5,000 toward the cost of each Pennsylvania student who attends.

With a rich heritage dating back to the 197th century, West Chester University was founded in 1871 as West Chester Normal School. Today, more than 13,800 students, along with 1,500 faculty and staff, study and work on the picturesque, 403-acre campus situated in the Borough of West Chester. Strategically located at the center of the mid-Atlantic corridor between New York City and Washington, D.C., West Chester is just 25 miles west of Philadelphia and 17 miles north of Wilmington.

Visit the College of Education on the Web at http://www.wcupa.edu/academics/coed/.
BECOME A TEACHER AT WCU

Teacher education is one of the most popular majors at West Chester University. Each year, WCU ranks first or second in Pennsylvania in the number of candidates recommended for teacher certification. The WCU Teacher Education Center places student teachers in approximately 40 school districts in Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Bucks, Lancaster, and Philadelphia counties. Specialized placements may also be secured in Pennsylvania-approved private schools in the greater Philadelphia area.

Prior to student teaching, undergraduates have multiple opportunities to observe and work with PK-12 students in schools and other settings. These early experiences are required in many courses, giving education majors the chance to gain and practice teaching skills in the classroom. Due to state-wide changes in teacher certification required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), the College of Education will begin offering undergraduate degrees in early grades preparation (PK-4), middle grades preparation (4-8), special education (PK-8), and special education (7-12), in fall 2009. Once approved by PDE, the college will phase out three current teacher certification programs: early childhood education (PK-3), elementary education (K-6), and special education (K-12). Please check the college's Web site, www.wcupa.edu/academics/coed/, for more information about these changes.

In addition to these degrees, the College of Education offers an undergraduate degree in secondary education in conjunction with the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Business and Public Affairs. Secondary education students have a choice of eight content areas or five foreign languages for certification.

The College of Education is recognized for the high quality of faculty. Annual survey results indicate student satisfaction with courses, performance measures, and effective student-faculty interactions. The faculty not only demonstrate excellence in the classroom, but they also routinely engage in scholarly activities in their disciplines, making them effective teacher-scholars.

Pennsylvania uses the PRAXIS I and II examinations to assess all teacher candidates in basic skills, general knowledge, professional knowledge, and subject area knowledge. WCU’s most recent pass rate PRAXIS I was 100%, with an aggregate pass rate of 96% on PRAXIS II. Students who complete an education degree and pass both PRAXIS tests qualify for a Pennsylvania Instructional I Certificate, which is valid for six years. The Pennsylvania teaching certificate is widely respected and reciprocal in many states.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to becoming a teacher, graduates can pursue other career opportunities:

Early and Middle Grades Education: teachers for prekindergarten to grade 4 or grades 4 to 8 in schools across the nation, in the Peace Corps, or in American schools abroad • teachers, administrators, and managers for child care centers and nursery schools • with advanced degrees, school administrators, superintendents, and higher education professors

Professional and Secondary Education: middle or high school teachers • instructors in business and industry • corporate trainers • educators abroad • authors with advanced degrees, school administrators, superintendents, and higher education professors

Special Education: teachers who work with individuals in need of learning, emotional, and physical support in special education classrooms or inclusive settings • supervisory personnel in group homes • positions in recreational facilities and day-care settings, as well as with advocacy groups.

EDUCATION STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Alliance for Minority Pro-Service Teachers
Alpha Upsilon Alpha – Rho Delta Chapter
Best Buddies
Council for Exceptional Children/Special Education
Kappa Delta Pi – Education Honor Society
Pennsylvania Student Education Association
Student Outreach to Urban Schools
West Chester Association for the Education of Young Children