



GRADUATE STUDIES FACT SHEET

POST-BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATION IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

Traditional, Online, and Blended Programs for the Post-Baccalaureate Certification in Special Education

PROGRAMS OF STUDY

The Department of Special Education at West Chester University is continually growing its capacity to provide degree, post-baccalaureate certification, and certificate programs of study by offering the same quality education in various formats across increasing venues. Depending on which program is chosen, students can take traditional (face-to-face) courses on the West Chester University campus, fully online courses, and blended (combination of face-to-face and online) courses at the new Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) Philadelphia Multi-University Center in Center City.

The post-baccalaureate certification in special education is offered in all three formats and is open to any student with a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university with an expressed interest in working with children with disabilities. All applicants must meet the following requirements:

THE CURRICULUM

Special Education Core

- EDA 514 PreK-8 Aspects of Transition
OR
- EDA 515 Middle/Secondary Career Development and Transition
- EDA 516 Curriculum and Instruction for Individual Learning Differences I
- EDA 521 Communications Development and Assistive Technologies for Students with Disabilities
- EDA 523 Curriculum and Instruction for Individual Learning Differences II

- EDA 542 Foundations of Special Education
- EDA 544 Classroom Management
- EDA 574 Assessment in Special Education
- EDA 582 Special Education Field and Seminar

CERTIFICATION

Public school teaching in Pennsylvania requires certification. When students demonstrate that they have completed all requirements for certification, the dean recommends them to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) for certification. In order to be recommended to PDE, students must complete the following:

1. A state-approved teacher education program including a student teaching or intern experience
2. Appropriate PECT assessments
3. Application materials documenting that all certificate requirements have been met

PROCEDURES FOR ADMISSION TO POST-BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATION IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

- Submit a completed application to the Office of Graduate Studies and Extended Education. Application forms are available from the graduate office, 610-436-2943.
- Arrange to have two complete undergraduate transcripts and proof of a baccalaureate degree sent to the Office of Graduate Studies and Extended

Education. The transcripts should include the cumulative grade point average of all undergraduate work.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Students already possessing teacher certification in an approved area of study must have the following:

- Baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university
- Minimum GPA of 2.8 on a 4.0 scale calculated on the most recent 48 credits of college/university course work and 3.0 total undergraduate cumulative GPA. (If the applicant possesses a master's degree, the GPA requirement applies to that degree.) Evidence of Chapter 49.13 competencies must be met. If not present, or if course work is deemed not to meet 49.13 competencies, additional course work (to be determined with an adviser), may be necessary and may include ENG/LAN 569 and EDR 550.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Write: Office of Graduate Studies and Extended Education
McKelvie Hall
102 West Rosedale Avenue
West Chester University
West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-2943

Fax: 610-436-2763

E-mail: gradstudy@wcupa.edu

Web: www.wcupa.edu/grad

Visit: www.facebook.com/wcugrad

Or contact the department:

Write: Dr. Vicki McGinley, Graduate Coordinator
Department of Special Education
305-B Recitation Hall

West Chester University
West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-1060

Web: www.wcupa.edu/_academics/coed/departments/specialeducation

The Graduate Catalog is available online at www.wcupa.edu/_information/official.documents/graduate.catalog/.

ABOUT GRADUATE STUDIES

West Chester University offers high-quality graduate degrees in more than 70 disciplines or areas of study, as well as certificate and certification programs. The graduate studies program has grown remarkably since its introduction in 1960. West Chester University's program is the largest within the 14 institutions in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education enrolling more than 2,100 graduate students.

Programs can be taken on a part-time basis, and most of the graduate classes are scheduled during late afternoons and

evenings for the benefit of in-service teachers and other employed persons.

ABOUT WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

A regional, public institution, West Chester University of Pennsylvania offers high-quality undergraduate and graduate degrees, as well as certification and certificate programs, in more than 100 subject areas. As the second largest member of the State System of Higher Education, West Chester offers a full and rewarding educational experience as well as reasonable tuition.

With a rich heritage dating back to the 19th century, West Chester University was founded in 1871 as West Chester Normal School for the purpose of training teachers for the Commonwealth's newly established public schools. In 1960, West Chester State Teachers College expanded its programs to include liberal arts and graduate degrees and, as a result, dropped "Teachers" from its name. In 1983, West Chester State

College became one of the 14 institutions in the State System of Higher Education. Along with its university status, the school acquired a new system of governance and the opportunity to expand its degree programs.

Today, more than 15,400 graduate and undergraduate students, as well as 1,500 faculty and staff, study and work on the 406-acre campus. Situated in the Borough of West Chester, the campus is a picturesque mix of Gothic, Victorian, and modern architecture with pleasant, tree-shaded walks.

Strategically located at the center of the mid-Atlantic corridor, West Chester University is just 25 miles west of Philadelphia and 17 miles north of Wilmington, Del. The campus is convenient to major cultural institutions, recreational activities, and commercial businesses, many of which provide internship opportunities for WCU's students.

