



GRADUATE STUDIES FACT SHEET

M.Ed. IN APPLIED STUDIES IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

PROGRAM GOAL

The Department of Early and Middle Grades Education at West Chester University offers a flexible program focusing on the most important and current issues in the field of education. The M.Ed. in applied studies in teaching and learning prepares teachers to serve the needs of diverse student populations – early and middle grades, as well as high school – through the development of active, constructive, and collaborative approaches to teaching and learning. The goal is to provide a comprehensive program in which academic study is enriched by, and integrated with, practical teaching.

PROGRAM OF STUDY

This graduate program provides opportunities for experienced educators to advance the knowledge and skills needed to be reflective practitioners and educational leaders. Recognizing the value of experience, the department has designed the program to strengthen and deepen the practice of educators through course work and field work that emphasize reflection, collaboration, and classroom-based inquiry. Educational practice and theory are linked through the readings and assignments to construct new ideas related to curriculum, instruction, and assessment. Working collaboratively with teacher educators, teachers can develop the knowledge, skills, and capacity to study their own practice to improve student learning.

The M.Ed. in applied studies in teaching and learning is a 36-credit program, which includes an 18-credit core requirement, a 12-credit area of focused inquiry, the development of a professional portfolio, and a six-credit, classroom-based inquiry project. Areas of focused inquiry currently

include, but are not limited to, the following: inclusion/special education, technology, culturally responsive education, teaching English as a second language, and literacy.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

I. Initial courses (to be taken during the first 15 hours of study)

EDE 554 The Reflective Teacher:
Examining Cultural
Paradigms in the
Contemporary Classroom

EDE 532 Teaching and Learning:
Linking Theory and Practice

II. Intermediate Courses

EDE 556 Human Development

EDE 583 The American School as
Social Narrative

EDR 535 Language, Learning, and
Literacy

III. Area of Focused Inquiry (12 credits)

IV. Culminating Courses

EDE 571 Educational Change: A
Systemic View

EDE 611 Teacher as Classroom
Researcher

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Candidates should submit the following materials to the Office of Graduate Studies and Extended Education:

- Completed graduate application, including a professional goals statement and two letters of recommendation (apply online at www.wcupa.edu/grad)
- Official academic transcript(s) from all colleges and universities attended, demonstrating a minimum GPA of 3.0
- A copy of the Pennsylvania Level I Teaching Certificate or its equivalent

- Documentation of one year of full-time, satisfactory K-12 teaching experience in public or private schools

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH COURSES

Students wishing to take courses for professional enrichment, but who are not pursuing a graduate degree or certification, may apply through the Office of Graduate Studies under the professional growth category. Courses may also be taken to achieve permanent Pennsylvania elementary certification or for Act 48 credits.

BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM

- Once-a-week evening classes, during the fall and spring semesters, designed for working professionals
- Condensed course formats during the summers
- Small classes
- Affordable tuition
- Electronic communication with faculty and fellow students
- Course choices, in areas of focused inquiry, based on personal and professional interests and needs
- Faculty and peer support for a self-selected, classroom-based inquiry project
- Opportunities to present with faculty and peers at professional conferences and publish in professional journals

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. Connie DiLucchio, Graduate
Coordinator
Department of Early and Middle
Grades Education
105B Recitation Hall
West Chester University
West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-3323
E-mail: cdilucchio@wcupa.edu
Web: www.wcupa.edu/_academics/coed/departments/earlymiddlegrades/graduate.asp

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.

