



## GRADUATE STUDIES FACT SHEET

### EARLY AND MIDDLE GRADES CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

#### POST BACCALAUREATE LEVEL I CERTIFICATION IN PRE-K – GRADE 4 AND GRADES 4 – 8

The future of this country depends on how well its teachers educate all students for the challenges of the 21st century. The Department of Early and Middle Grades Education at West Chester University provides programs at the graduate level that prepare teachers to serve the needs of diverse populations of children through the development of active, constructive, and collaborative approaches to teaching and learning. The post-baccalaureate certification programs in pre-kindergarten through grade 4 and grades 4 through 8 are comprehensive programs in which academic study is enriched by, and integrated with, practical teaching.

#### PROGRAMS OF STUDY

These programs are designed for candidates who did not major in elementary education or early grades education as an undergraduate. Each curriculum consists of a coherent group of courses and field experiences that are designed to help candidates acquire the competencies required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) for the pre-kindergarten through grade 4 certificate and grades 4 through 8 certificate. After receiving the Instructional I Certificate and successfully completing one year of full-time teaching, candidates can apply to the M.Ed. in applied studies in teaching and learning. If accepted, students who complete the certification program can transfer 12 credits into the M.Ed. program.

#### ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION IN PRE- KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 4 AND GRADES 4 - 8

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 recommendations (apply online at [www.wcupa.edu/grad](http://www.wcupa.edu/grad))
- Official academic transcript(s) from all colleges and universities attended, demonstrating a minimum GPA of 3.0
- For certification in grades 4 through 8, a copy of passing scores on PDE-mandated Praxis II subject concentration tests in either math or science

Note: The Pennsylvania Department of Education periodically changes testing requirements and passing scores. Up-to-date information about Pennsylvania certification tests is available at [www.wcupa.edu/\\_academics/coed/PAtests.asp/](http://www.wcupa.edu/_academics/coed/PAtests.asp/).

#### PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Level I Certification program requirements are determined on an individual basis. Each candidate will receive an "Approved Program of Study," which will include a checklist of (a) courses or work experiences accepted as equivalent to required courses in the program, and (b) courses required to complete the candidate's certification program.

#### 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
- Field experiences in 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 profession growth category. Courses may also be taken to achieve permanent Pennsylvania certification or for Act 48 credits.

#### 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](mailto:gradstudy@wcupa.edu)

Web: [www.wcupa.edu/grad](http://www.wcupa.edu/grad)

Visit: [www.facebook.com/wcugrad](http://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](mailto:cdilucchio@wcupa.edu)

Web: [www.wcupa.edu/\\_academics/coed/departments/earlymiddlegrades](http://www.wcupa.edu/_academics/coed/departments/earlymiddlegrades)

The Graduate Catalog is available online at [www.wcupa.edu/\\_information/official.documents/graduate.catalog/](http://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.

