PROGRAM OF GOALS

The Department of Literacy prepares reading professionals to be effective literacy teachers and specialists in schools across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and beyond. Students learn that supporting children and young adults in their literacy learning requires an understanding of language and literacy development, effective instruction, and appropriate assessment. Throughout the program, students explore the many ways teachers and their students create learning communities and are part of a larger community of readers and writers. Students learn to understand and respect cultural, linguistic, and ethnic diversity, as well as recognize the ways in which diversity enhances the reading and writing lives of students. Finally, the department supports students as they become dedicated professionals who are active agents in their own teaching and learning. WCU's graduate programs reflect the International Reading Association standards and competencies and the Pennsylvania Department of Education requirements.

PROGRAM OF STUDY

MASTER OF EDUCATION IN READING

This 36-credit master's program is designed to give students advanced knowledge of language and literacy development, instruction, and assessment. It provides a balanced literacy program with emphasis on classroom instruction and on assessment-based instruction for children who are struggling with literacy. Students in this program can choose from a list of required electives.

READING SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION

This 30-credit program overlaps the M.Ed. so that students who are working toward an M.Ed. in reading take the 30 credits required for the reading specialist certification. Upon successful completion of the 30 credits, the comprehensive examination, and the Praxis exam for reading specialists, students are recommended for Pennsylvania certification as reading specialists.

LITERACY CERTIFICATE

For students who are not seeking either an M.Ed. or reading specialist certification, the department offers an 18-credit literacy certificate. This program gives students a coherent graduate program in teaching literacy.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

WCU's program reflects a balanced approach to literacy instruction. A central theme of the program is that classroom instruction must be based upon individual student assessment and need. In-depth study of word recognition, comprehension, children's literature, multicultural issues, literacy across the curriculum, and assessment help our students gain the expertise they need to work with students, parents, and teachers. Innovative features of the program include an early on-campus practicum, opportunities for literacy coaching, and three initial courses that may be taken in any order depending on student interest and schedules.

During the academic year courses are held in the afternoon and evening while daytime classes are offered in the summer. Graduate assistantships are available.

THE CURRICULUM

Core courses common to M.Ed. and reading specialist certification:

EDR 505 Orthographic Knowledge, Language, and Literacy Development

EDR 507 Comprehension and Vocabulary: Development and Instruction

EDR 509 Writing Development and Instruction

EDR 512 Literacy Practicum and Seminar I

EDR 514 Reading in the Content Areas

EDR 515 Teaching Reading with Children's and Adolescents' Literature

EDR 516 Problems in Literacy Development

EDR 519 Issues of Diversity in Teaching Reading

EDR 532 Literacy Practicum and Seminar II

EDR 541 Organization and Supervision of Literacy Programs K-12

Additional courses from the following list may be required for state certification as a reading specialist. M.Ed. students must complete a minimum of two of the following courses.

EDA 511 Inclusion and Collaboration

EDA 541 Foundations of Special Education

EDE 551 Child and Adolescent Behavior I

EDF 501 Research Methods for Teachers

EDF 510 Educational Foundations

EDF 589 Sociological Foundations of Education

EDP 550 Advanced Educational Psychology

EDP 569 Adolescent Development and Learning

EDR 604 Literacy Program Evaluation and Data Analysis

EDT 500 Integrated Educational

Technologies for Effective Instruction

LAN/ENG 569 Teaching English Language Learners

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Candidates should have the following:

- Undergraduate degree from an accredited college or university

- Undergraduate GPA of 3.0 calculated on the last 48 credits earned, and minimum GPA of 3.0 for all undergraduate courses (Students who do not meet the GPA requirement may take GRE or MAT exams and seek admission based on these scores.)

- Initial teaching certification

- Two letters of professional reference

Applicants may apply online at www.wcupa. edu/grad/.

FACULTY

The literacy faculty is a diverse group of teacher-scholars who are committed to advancing the profession through their teaching, writing, speaking, and leadership in professional organizations. Faculty members have experience teaching and working at the elementary and secondary levels in urban, suburban, and rural settings. Many faculty members maintain their ties to K-12 classrooms through their research, field work, and consulting. Students may obtain a complete listing of the faculty, their academic qualifications, and areas of interest by visiting the department's Web site: http://www.wcupa.edu/_academics/coed/departments/literacy/.

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

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.

West
Chester
University