

Department of  
Early and Middle Grades  
Education




## **Early Grades Preparation (EGP)**

**Post-Baccalaureate Certification Program  
Leading to Pennsylvania Level I Teaching  
Certificate**

**Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 4**

College of Education  
West Chester University  
West Chester, PA 19383  
610-436-2944



The Department of Early and Middle Grades Education offers a flexible program leading to Pennsylvania Level I Certification. Certification in Pre-K through Grade 4 is granted by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The Pre-K through Grade 4 program is designed for candidates who a) have completed a BA or BS degree in an area other than education, or b) hold a teaching certificate in another grade range or in a content area.

## **Admission**

### **Requirements**

Candidates apply for admission to the Early Grades Preparation Program through the Office of Graduate Studies and Extended Education at West Chester University. Application forms are available on-line on the West Chester University web page ([www.wcupa.edu](http://www.wcupa.edu)). Click on "Departments," then "Graduate Studies," and go to "Apply Now!" As part of the application process, candidates must submit the following materials:

- a professional goals statement;
- two recommendations; and
- official academic transcript(s) from all colleges and universities attended, demonstrating a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

### **Deadlines**

Applications and accompanying materials for the Early Grades Preparation Program are processed on a rolling admission basis. It is possible to take three courses, nine credits total, as a non-matriculated post-baccalaureate student.

### **Notification**

Once an application is complete, the Dean of Graduate Studies and the Graduate Coordinator for the Department of Early Grades and Middle Grades Education will evaluate the applicant's credentials. Applicable courses may be accepted by the Department of Early and Middle Grades Education to meet program requirements. The applicant will receive written notification of his/her credential evaluation and admission status from both the Dean and the Department. The Approved Program of Study form (APS), is included with the Handbook for the EGP Program. This form indicates the necessary courses that must be completed in order to obtain certification. This form needs to be reviewed and signed as soon as possible. Please contact the Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Lisa J. Lucas ([llucas@wcupa.edu](mailto:llucas@wcupa.edu)) to schedule an appointment to complete this form. Please bring to this meeting: your transcript, the APS guidance sheet, and a self-addressed envelope.

### **Tuition and Fees**

Tuition information is available on the West Chester University web site ([www.wcupa.edu](http://www.wcupa.edu)) or the Office of Graduate Studies web site ([www.gradstudy@wcupa.edu](http://www.gradstudy@wcupa.edu)). Please refer to West Chester catalogs for complete information on tuition and fees, or telephone the Office of the Bursar at (610) 436-2552.



## **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) previously completed courses accepted by the Graduate Coordinator as equivalent to required courses in the program, b) work and volunteer experiences accepted by the Graduate Coordinator as equivalent to required courses, and c) courses required to complete the candidate's certification program.

## **Certification Exams**

Those seeking an Instructional I Certificate in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 by program completion, and passing scores (as determined by the Pennsylvania Department of Education) on required certification exams. The Pennsylvania Department of Education periodically changes testing requirements and passing scores. Up-to-date information about certification exams is available at [http://www.wcupa.edu/\\_academics/coed/PAtests.asp](http://www.wcupa.edu/_academics/coed/PAtests.asp).

## **Formal Admission to Teacher Education (FATE)**

All students who enter the Post-Baccalaureate Certification Program for Early Grades Preparation are designated as *probationary teacher education students* until they achieve Formal Admission to Teacher Education (FATE). Please note: *FATE is not the same as admission to Graduate Studies*. Students apply for FATE after receipt of the acceptance letter to Graduate Studies.


Only students achieving FATE will be able to enroll in the Professional Semester (EGP 550, EGP 551, and EGP 411). Because students need to file an application for student teaching *two* semesters prior to the professional semester, they are strongly encouraged to apply for FATE as soon as possible after being admitted to Graduate Studies. Information about FATE requirements is sent from the Department of Early and Middle Grades Education soon after students are accepted by Graduate Studies.

## **Field Experiences**

All field placements for EGP courses, including student teaching, are arranged in conjunction with the Department of Early and Middle Grades Education and the Office of Field Placement and Student Teaching. The Office is located in the FH Green Library, Room 251. *Candidates are not to solicit field placements*. While candidate needs are considered in assigning placements, no particular placement can be guaranteed. Transportation to and from field placements is the responsibility of the individual candidate. Students should expect that they will be completing the required field hours during the traditional student school day (ranging from 8:15a.m. - 3:45p.m. depending on the instructor's arrangements with the cooperating teachers in the field).

## **Clearances**

*Teacher education candidates must have their criminal background, child abuse, FBI history record, and tuberculosis clearances by the first day of class for the following field experience courses: EGP 501, EGP 520, EGP 522, EDR 523, LAN/ENG 569, EGP 550, EGP 551, and EGP 411.* Information is available at [http://www.wcupa.edu/\\_academics/coed/studentinfo/clearances.asp](http://www.wcupa.edu/_academics/coed/studentinfo/clearances.asp)





## **The Professional Semester**

Student teaching is an integral part of the Professional Semester (EGP 550, EGP 551, and EGP 411). Candidates are eligible to student teach if they have a) achieved formal admission status to teacher education (FATE), b) completed all coursework, and c) maintained the Pennsylvania-mandated GPA. Candidates must register for the Professional Semester (EGP 550, EGP 551, and EGP 411) through the Graduate Coordinator for Early and Middle Grades Education. **All student teaching must be completed in the Spring semester only.**

### Program Completion, Certification, and Further Studies

Upon completion of all course work, the professional semester, and the appropriate certification examinations, students file "Application for Certification" forms. These forms are available in the Certification Office, Room 302, Recitation Hall. The student's eligibility for certification will be verified and the application for certification submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

### ***M.Ed. in Applied Studies in Teaching and Learning***

After a year of full time teaching, candidates may apply to the M.Ed. in Applied Studies in Teaching and Learning. Twelve graduate credits completed in the post-baccalaureate certification program can be utilized as an "Area of Focused Inquiry" in the M.Ed. Candidates complete an additional seven courses to complete the M.Ed. Program. This advantage is only available to those who have completed a post-baccalaureate certification program at West Chester University.

Note: This booklet should be viewed as an advising guide. The provisions of this booklet are not to be regarded as an irrevocable contract between the student and the Department of Early and Middle Grades Education.

### **For more information about the program, please contact:**

Dr. Lisa Lucas, Graduate Coordinator  
Department of Early and Middle Grades Education  
Recitation Hall 105B  
(610) 436-1059  
[llucas@wcupa.edu](mailto:llucas@wcupa.edu)

### **For more information about the application process, please contact:**

Office of Graduate Studies and Extended Education  
McKelvie Hall  
102 w. Rosedale Avenue  
(610) 436-2943  
[gradstudy@wcupa.edu](mailto:gradstudy@wcupa.edu)

(Revised Spring 2014)

# Program at a Glance

## Post-Baccalaureate Certification

### Early Grades Preparation (Pre-Kindergarten through Grade Four) (57 credits)

#### Admission Requirements

#### 3.0 GPA

IMPORTANT: Before applying, please contact Dr. Lisa Lucas ([llucas@wcupa.edu](mailto:llucas@wcupa.edu)) for information about admission requirements.

**Tentative**

#### Group I Courses

|  |           |   |                      |
|--|-----------|---|----------------------|
| EGP 501: Human Development from Gestation through Adolescence                      | 3 credits | 10 hours Level I Field (Clearances Required)  | Spring               |
| EGP 520: Professional Dimensions of Teaching: Early Grades (Pre or CoReq: EGP 501) | 3 credits | 30 hours Level II Field (Clearances Required) | Fall                 |
| EDA 542: Foundations of Special Education  | 3 credits |   | Spring, Summer, Fall |

#### Group II Courses

|   |           |  |                      |
|---|-----------|--|----------------------|
| EGP 522: Prekindergarten Programs and Methods and PK-4 Family Partnerships (PreReq: EGP 501, EGP 520) | 6 credits | Approximately 45 hours Level III Field (Clearances Required) | Spring               |
| EDP 553: Assessment for Learning—Early Grades (PreReq: EGP 520)                                       | 3 credits |  | Spring, Fall         |
| EDR 503: Language Arts Learning for PK-4 (PreReq: EGP 501)  | 3 credits |  | Fall                 |
| EDR 513: Reading in the PK-4 Classroom (PreReq: EGP 501)  | 3 credits |  | Spring               |
| EDR 523: Literacy Field Experiences PK-4 (PreReq: EDR 503, EDR 513)                                   | 3 credits | 20 hours Level III Field (Clearances Required)               | Summer               |
| EDR 550: Literacy Development for Students with Disabilities in Inclusive Classrooms                  | 3 credits |  | Spring, Summer, Fall |
| LAN/ENG 569: Teaching English Language Learners (ELLs) PK-12  | 3 credits | (Clearances Required)  | Spring, Summer, Fall |
| MTE 553: Teaching Children Mathematics I  | 3 credits |  | Spring, Fall         |
| SCE 520: PK- 4 Science Instruction  | 3 credits |  | Spring, Summer, Fall |
| EGP 535: Teaching Social Studies and Health PK-4 (PreReq: EGP 520)                                    | 3 credits |  | Spring, Summer, Fall |
| EGP 540: Building Community and Integrating the Arts in the PK-4 Classroom (Pre or CoReq: EGP 535)    | 3 credits |  | Spring               |

#### Group III Courses: The Professional Semester

Students wishing to enroll in the Professional Semester must have: a) completed all required course work and field hours in Group I and II courses; b) achieved Formal Admission to Teacher Education (FATE); and c) shown evidence of having taken the PDE mandated Specialty Area PECT test(s). **This Professional Semester can only take place in the Spring.**

|   |           |  |        |
|---|-----------|--|--------|
| EGP 550: Developmental Field Experiences in Inclusive Classrooms (CoReq: EGP 551 and EGP 552) | 3 credits | Full time/3 weeks with 2 weekly seminars (Clearances Required) | Spring |
| EGP 551 (3 credits) and EGP 411 (6 credits): Student Teaching (CoReq: EGP 550)                | 9 credits | Full time/12 weeks with weekly seminar (Clearances Required)   | Spring |