


Department of
Early and Middle Grades
Education



Middle Grades Preparation (MGP)
Post-Baccalaureate Certification Program
Leading to Pennsylvania Level I Teaching
Certificate
Grades 4 through 8

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 Grades 4 through 8 is granted by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The Grades 4 through 8 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 Middle 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). 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;
- official academic transcript(s) from all colleges and universities attended, demonstrating a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale; and
- **a copy of a passing score on the PDE mandated content test related to a concentration in either math, science, or social studies.**

Deadlines


Applications and accompanying materials for the Middle 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) and APS guidance sheet are included with the Handbook for the MGP Program. These forms indicate the necessary courses that must be completed in order to obtain certification. These forms need to be reviewed and signed as soon as possible. Please contact the Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Lisa J. Lucas (llucas@wcupa.edu) to schedule an appointment to complete these forms. 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) or the Office of Graduate Studies web site (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.

Formal Admission to Teacher Education (FATE)

All students who enter the Post-Baccalaureate Certification Program for Middle 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 (MGP 550, MGP 551, and MGP 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 MGP 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 arrangement 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: EDP 501, MGP 520, EDP 544, EDR 538, MTE 555, SCE 530, MGP 535, LAN/ENG 569, MGP 550, MGP 551, and MGP 411. Information is available at http://www.wcupa.edu/_academics/coed/studentinfo/clearances.asp





The Professional Semester

Student teaching is an integral part of the Professional Semester (MGP 550, MGP 551, and MGP 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 (MGP 550, MGP 551, and MGP 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

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

(Revised Spring 2014)

Program at a Glance

Post-Baccalaureate Certification Middle Grades Preparation--Grades Four through Eight (51 credits)

Admission Requirements

3.0 GPA, and a copy of a passing score on the PDE mandated content test related to a concentration in either math, science, or social studies.

Tentative

Group I Courses

EDP 501: Young Adolescent/Adolescent Cognition, Development, and Learning Theories	3 credits	10 hours Level I Field (Clearances Required)	Spring
MGP 520: Professional Dimensions of Teaching: Middle Grades (Pre or CoReq: EDP 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

EDP 554: Assessment for Learning—Middle Grades (PreReqs: EDP 501, MGP 520, EDA 542)	3 credits	20 hours Level III Field (Clearances Required)	Spring, Summer
EDR 518: Teaching Language Arts 4-8 (PreReq: EDP 501)	3 credits		Spring
EDR 528: Reading in the Intermediate Grades (PreReq: EDP 501)	3 credits		Spring
EDR 538: Literacy Field Experiences 4-8 (PreReq: EDR 518, 528)	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
MTE 555: Teaching Children Mathematics II (PreReq: MTE 553)	3 credits	20 hours Level III Field (Clearances Required)	Spring
SCE 530: Science Methods for Middle Level Education (PreReq: MGP 520)	3 credits	15 hours Level III Field (Clearances Required)	Spring, Fall, Winter
MGP 535: Teaching Social Studies in Grades 4-8 (PreReq: MGP 520)	3 credits	15 hours Level III Field (Clearances Required)	Spring, Summer, Fall

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); c) presented passing scores on one content-area Praxis tests (social studies, math or science); and d) shown evidence of having taken the PDE mandated Specialty Area Core Assessment test(s). **This Professional Semester can only take place in the Spring.**

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