

Education - Teacher Certification

Washington & Jefferson College has been preparing the best and brightest students to be our nation's finest teachers for well over two centuries. Building on this historic tradition, W&J's education department has become nationally and internationally recognized for its cutting edge, hands-on teacher education programs. Its curriculum and professors have won numerous awards. Most importantly, its students have among the highest job placement rates of any college or university in the state. Our active learning motto is "Docendo Discimus - we learn by teaching."

Program Website

washjeff.edu/
teacher-certification

Acting Program Director

John Zimmerman, Ph.D.
jzimmerman@washjeff.edu

Faculty

David Ryan Bunting, M.Ed.
dbunting@washjeff.edu

Marissa Capuzzi-Schimizzi, Ph.D.
mcapuzzischimizzi@washjeff.edu

Patricia Easton, B.A.
peaston@washjeff.edu

Mary Jo Podgurski, Ed.D.
ldunn@washjeff.edu

Timothy Wagner, Ed.D.
twagner@washjeff.edu

Office of Admission

60 S. Lincoln St.
Washington, PA 15301
admission@washjeff.edu
724-223-6025

Major Requirements

Child Development and Education (CDE) majors may seek teacher certification in grades PreK-4 and 4-8 (Language Arts; Mathematics; Science; Social Studies).

Dual Special Education PreK-12 is available.

Students may major without certification.

Courses:

- Foundations of American Education
- Educational Psychology
- The Exceptional Learner
- Curriculum
- Teaching Reading and Writing
- Children's Literature
- Teaching the Diverse Learner
- Differentiated Instruction and Assessment
- Principles of Curriculum Design & Student Teaching (certification track)
- Capstone Seminar (non-certification) & Capstone Internship (non-certification)

Minor Requirements

Secondary certification candidates (7-12 or PreK-12) major in the academic subject they wish to teach and minor in education.

Dual Special Education PreK-12 is available.

Certification areas include:

Art Education PreK-12

Biology 7-12

Chemistry 7-12

English 7-12

French PreK-12

German PreK-12

Mathematics 7-12

Physics 7-12

Social Studies 7-12

Spanish PreK-12

A full list of courses and descriptions can be found online in the College catalog.

Beyond the Classroom

Students have many opportunities for research, internships, conferences, and networking beyond the classroom that give them an advantage to prepare for life after W&J.

Research and Internships

- Students research and connect theory and best practice through educational internships at urban, suburban, and rural schools locally and abroad in all core education classes.
- Education students have received a record number of international Fulbright teaching awards.

Careers

- Classroom teacher in PreK-4; grades 4-8; grades 7-12; specialty teacher grades PreK-12 (Art, French, German, and Spanish); Special Education PreK-12
- School counselor, school psychologist, child advocate, principal, curriculum director
- Superintendent (with additional graduate studies)

Alumni Achievements

- William Holmes McGuffey, author of the bestselling McGuffey's Readers, is an alum of our program. Considered the father of individualized instruction, he has been called "the greatest single influence on education in American history."
- Our graduates are currently teaching from Hawaii to New York, Michigan to Florida, and across Pennsylvania.