My path to the Wescoe School was very different than most. I was a military combat veteran who just redeployed from Iraq and was seeking an education that would fit the organized format I desired. I had only been back in the United States two months when I decided to take the leap.

Through the military I have gained professionalism, dedication, and immediate life experience. Even my thoughts for teaching came from my time in the military. The career counseling department helped me decide that I was interested in a fulfilling career that would allow me to continue serving the community. I am very thankful for the military that I served and the support that I received from my family and friends.

The faculty and staff in the Education Department made adjustments and worked flexible schedules to give me an organized path of accomplishable tasks. The program has been flexible enough to fit into my schedule. I was able to attend classes at night and fit in the morning. I was able to work towards my goals and become certified in Teacher Certification through the Wescoe School. I highly recommend anyone wishing to become certified in Teacher Certification to contact the Wescoe School.

Joshua J. Tosado
Allentown, PA
Student Teaching

The student teaching semester requires full-time availability for 15 weeks and is comprised of 4 courses including 2 separate student teaching experiences of 6 weeks each, and 3 weeks of on-campus seminars. There will be 2 additional courses during the semester: Seminar in Assessment and Evaluation and Seminar in Professional Studies and Community Education. With this program, students have the opportunity to build upon their fieldwork experiences and expand contacts with various schools and school districts.

Certification Exams

All teacher candidates, other than those presently holding a bachelor’s degree, are required to pass the PSST PRAXIS I Academic Skills test in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. At Muhlenberg, the PSST exams must be passed before progressing beyond the first five education courses, but are not required for admission to the program. Additional exams will be required based on the level of certification and the major concentration. Further information regarding the tests can be found online at ets.org/praxis and pa.nesinc.com.

Grade Point Averages

In order to become certified, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania requires an overall GPA of 3.0 as well as the passing scores on the PECT and Praxis exams. In addition, the Education Department at Muhlenberg requires a 2.75 GPA in education courses and a 2.5 GPA in the major. Foreign language candidates must have a 3.0 GPA in the chosen language. If a candidate has not yet reached the required GPAs, the Wescoe School will evaluate the transcript and indicate the number of courses needed to reach the appropriate level.

Required Clearances

The Pennsylvania Department of Education requires all student teachers and fieldwork students to have the following clearances: Federal Criminal History – Act 114 (fingerprinting), Pennsylvania State Criminal History Background Check: PATCH – Act 34, Child Abuse History Clearance – Act 151, Tuberculin Test. Detailed information will be given to all students during information sessions held on campus. The original documents should be kept in a safe place with copies available for the Wescoe School, the Education Department, and building administrators during fieldwork and student teaching. Although all clearances, except fingerprinting, must be renewed annually as mandated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, new fingerprints must be completed prior to student teaching.

Grade 4-8

The 4-8 program permits teachers to become both generalists in grades 4–6 as well as content specialists. Majors for these programs include Mathematics, English, and American Studies (Social Studies). Students selecting this program have the opportunity to teach in both an elementary and middle school setting in most public schools. There are a total of 13 education courses along with the required cognate courses and major.

- A Bachelor’s Degree in Mathematics, English, or American Studies (Social Studies)
- Additional Cognate Courses:
  - Biology
  - Physical Science
  - Introduction to American National Government
  - World Geography
- Additional Education Courses:
  - Literacy and Social Studies Education
  - Mathematics Education for Young Learners
  - Science Education for Young Learners
  - Content Area Curriculum for Adolescent Learners (Major concentration)

Secondary Grades 7-12

Secondary teacher certification is comprised of 10 education courses with additional coursework in the cognate courses and major.

- A Bachelor’s Degree in Biology, Chemistry, English, Environmental Education, French, History (Social Studies), Mathematics, Natural Science, Physics, or Spanish
- Additional Education Course:
  - Content Area Curriculum for Adolescent Learners (Major concentration)
To Get Started

- We encourage all candidates to make an initial appointment as early as possible. Please contact the Wescoe School at 484-664-3300 or wescoe@muhlenberg.edu for more information.
- Costs and fees are subject to change annually and can be found on the Wescoe School website.
- If you have any past coursework or already have a degree, please have OFFICIAL transcripts sent to:

Muhlenberg College Wescoe School of Continuing Education
Attn: Teacher Certification Program
2400 Chew Street
Allentown, PA 18104-5586

Education Department Faculty

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