

# Teacher Certification

## Overview

Muhlenberg College has been educating teachers for more than 100 years starting with “The Saturday School for Teachers” in 1910. **Muhlenberg College Wescoe School of Continuing Education**, specifically designed to meet the needs of adult students, welcomes candidates to this highly regarded program. With our convenient scheduling, candidates have access to the same quality courses and faculty available to all Muhlenberg students.

## Requirements

### **Bachelor’s Degree and Major**

Individuals seeking teacher certification in Pennsylvania must fulfill the requirements for a bachelor’s degree, either prior to or while completing courses for certification. As Education is not offered as a major or minor at Muhlenberg, candidates must have a major in one of the many offered at Muhlenberg. Pre-K-4 candidates may select any of those majors; however, 4-8 and secondary certification candidates may only major in specific academic areas based on the subject area in which they wish to teach. For grades 4-8 candidates, the majors include American Studies, Social Studies, English or Mathematics. For secondary grades, the majors include Biology, Chemistry, English, Environmental Education, French, History, Mathematics, Natural Science, Physics, or Spanish.

### **Fieldwork**

One of the many strengths of the Teacher Certification program at Muhlenberg is a strong commitment to field experience. Our candidates begin their fieldwork early in the sequence of courses and enjoy experiences in a variety of settings and range of grade levels. These experiences can help clarify goals and give invaluable opportunities leading up to the student teaching semester. Although all education courses are available at night, candidates must have some daytime availability to participate in this important component which usually requires approximately 3 hours one day a week. The Supervisor of Fieldwork will determine the placements based on the student’s area of certification and daytime availability, so students do not have the added responsibility of finding an appropriate field experience.



*“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 unmatched life experiences. Even with those great skills, the transition from life in the military to the civilian community was very difficult for me. What was even more difficult was finding an institution like the Wescoe School that would accommodate the needs of a military veteran. The faculty and staff in the Education Department made adjustments and created a flexible schedule to give me an organized path of accomplishable tasks. The program has allowed me to develop into the teacher I wanted to be. I highly recommend anyone wishing to become certified in Teacher Certification to contact the Wescoe School.”*

Joshua J. Tosado  
Allentown, PA



**Muhlenberg College**  
Wescoe School of  
Continuing Education

## 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 PPST PRAXIS I Academic Skills test in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. At Muhlenberg, the PPST 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](http://ets.org/praxis) and [pa.nesinc.com](http://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.

## All Certification Areas Require the Following:

- A Bachelor's Degree
- Required Cognate Courses
  - 2 College Level Mathematics Courses
  - Writing Composition
  - British or American Literature
- Required Education Courses: Plus specific grade level course work
  - History and Politics of American Education
  - Educational Psychology
  - Introduction to Special Education
  - Integrating Curriculum and Instruction
  - Theory and Practice of Teaching English Language Learners
- Professional Semester (Student Teaching)
  - Seminar in Assessment and Evaluation
  - Seminar in Professional Studies and Community Education
  - Student Teaching I
  - Student Teaching II

## Grades 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)*

## Specific Requirements for Each Certification Area

### Pre-K-4

The Pre-K-4 certification permits the candidate to teach in early childhood settings as well elementary schools up to grade 4. There are a total of 14 education courses along with the cognate and major courses.

- A Bachelor's Degree in any major offered at Muhlenberg
- Additional Cognate Courses:
  - Biology*
  - Physical Science*
  - Foundations of the Creative Arts*
  - World Geography*
- Additional Education Courses:
  - Introduction to Early Childhood Education*
  - Language and Early Literacy Education*
  - Literacy and Social Studies Education*
  - Mathematics Education for Young Learners*
  - Science Education for Young Learners*

### Secondary Grades 7-12

Secondary teacher certification is comprised of 10 education courses with additional course-work 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 [wescoc@muhlenberg.edu](mailto:wescoc@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

Michael J. Carbone, Chair  
Cathy Y. Kim  
Sally A. Richwine  
Kim Marie Rohrbach  
Pearl M. Rosenberg



2400 Chew Street | Allentown, PA 18104-5586  
484-664-3300 | fax: 484-664-3532 | [wescoc@muhlenberg.edu](mailto:wescoc@muhlenberg.edu)

[muhlenberg.edu/wescoc](http://muhlenberg.edu/wescoc)

Muhlenberg College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability or age in the administration of any of its programs, activities, including admissions, financial aid, and employment. All inquiries should be directed to: The Human Resources Office in the Haas College Center: 484-664-3165.

