



# Frequently Asked Questions



## The Teacher Certification Program

### 1. What do I need to become a certified teacher?

All certification candidates must have or work toward obtaining a bachelor's degree in one of the majors offered at Muhlenberg College as well as completing the required education courses and our General Academic Requirements. Since education is a certification and not a major at Muhlenberg, all candidates must also select a content area.

### 2. Do I have to complete my bachelor's degree before starting the teacher certification courses?

No, you may take both concurrently as some of the education courses will also fulfill the bachelor's degree requirements.

### 3. What certification areas do you offer?

We offer certification in grades Pre-K-4, 4-8, and 7-12. For grades 4-8 or grades 7-12 you need to major in the discipline you wish to teach.

### 4. How many education courses will I need?

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) requires all certification areas to have: 2 college level math courses, a first year seminar or writing composition course, and an American or British Literature course. In addition, the following courses are required for the various certification areas:

- Pre-K-4: Students may major in any content area offered at Muhlenberg. Requirements include 14 education courses and 4 additional courses outside of the Education Department: Biology, Physical Science, World Geography, and Foundations of Creative Arts.
- 4-8: Students may only major in English, Mathematics, or American Studies (Social Studies). Requirements include 13 education courses, and 4 additional courses outside of the Education Department: Biology, Physical Science, World Geography, and Introduction to American National Government.
- 7-12: Students may major in Biology, Chemistry, English, Environmental Education, French, Mathematics, Physics, Social Studies (History), or Spanish. Requirements include 10 education courses.

### 5. How much will it cost?

Students pay on a per course basis (for the current costs, contact the Wescoe School.) Cost per course through the Wescoe School is competitive with other institutions in our area, including state colleges and universities. All of our courses are 4 credit hour courses unless otherwise indicated.

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*"Deciding to return to school and choosing the Wescoe School are among the best decisions I have made in my life. The dedication and commitment from the faculty and staff have been wonderful. The Education Department houses a diverse and experienced faculty that has given me the tools necessary to succeed in the classroom."*

*"I have also gained priceless experience through the observation experiences connected to the education classes. The ability to be an active participant in the school environment has provided me the confidence and knowledge to be the best teacher possible. I am lucky to be a teacher certification candidate at the Wescoe School and would encourage other aspiring educators to join me."*

Andrew Fehnel  
Quakertown, PA



**Muhlenberg College**  
Wescoe School of  
Continuing Education



### **6. Is financial aid available?**

Financial aid is available for those who meet federal financial aid eligibility requirements and include Stafford Loans. In addition, Veterans could be eligible through the G.I. Bill and The Yellow Ribbon Program. Go online to [newgibill.org](http://newgibill.org) for more information.

### **7. How long is it going to take?**

The length of time depends on the number of courses needed; however, not less than 4 full semesters or 2 full years. A review of any previous course work and determination of additional required courses will provide information for developing an educational plan.

### **8. Are there minimum GPA requirements for certification?**

Yes, PDE requires an overall GPA of 3.0. In addition, Muhlenberg requires a 2.5 GPA in the major (a 3.0 GPA is required for Foreign Languages majors); and a 2.75 in Education courses.

### **9. Are there state or national exams?**

Yes, 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) or [pa.nesinc.com](http://pa.nesinc.com).

### **10. When should I take the exams?**

All of the exams can be taken after being admitted into the program. Students will be apprised of the associated deadlines.

### **11. When are classes offered?**

Teacher certification classes through the Wescoe School are available in the evening; however, fieldwork in the public schools is required and must be done during the regular school day. The student teaching semester requires full day availability.

### **12. Are Education courses offered in the summer?**

Teacher certification classes are not offered in the summer due to fieldwork requirements. However, cognates and major courses are offered.

### **13. Can I teach in other states with a PA teaching certificate?**

Yes, there is reciprocity in most states, but you must apply to each state's Department of Education to transfer your certificate.

### **14. How do I apply to attend the Wescoe School for certification?**

We encourage all candidates to make an initial appointment with the Director of Teacher Certification as early as possible. Please contact the Wescoe School office for more information. We look forward to meeting you!



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