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 does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability or age in the administration 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.
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: Assessment and Evaluation and Seminar: 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 students receiving Pennsylvania certification will take a series of exams through the Pennsylvania Educator Certification tests (PECT), including the Pre-professional Academic Performance Assessment (PAPA). Additional PRAXIS specialty tests will be taken according to the area of certification and major. The timing of various tests will be discussed during the interview process, but no test is needed prior to application.

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 Math 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

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

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

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 Science, French, German, History (Social Studies), Mathematics, Natural Science, Physics, or Spanish
- Additional Education Course:
  - Content Area Curriculum for Adolescent Learners (Major concentration)