

D. HENRY WATTS SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Fully accredited by the Virginia Board of Education, the Teacher Education Program at VWU is known for preparing effective and qualified classroom teachers. Leveraging our on-campus K-12 laboratory school, Tidewater Collegiate Academy, our students begin observation and fieldwork in their first year at VWU. The program's unique design combines rigorous coursework with diverse and authentic teaching experiences both on and off campus.

THE PROGRAM

VWU students interested in teaching in either elementary or special education are urged to apply to the Teacher Education Program as soon as possible.

Program admission requirements include:

- *Acceptable ratings on VWU Teacher Education Dispositional Assessment*
- *Cumulative GPA of 2.8 or greater*
- *Successfully complete required preadmission courses*
- *Passing scores on Praxis multiple subject subtest - Reading and Language Arts (5002)*

Upon admission, students enroll in upper-level education courses which provide a balance of coursework and teaching experience. Students who successfully complete the program are recommended for Virginia Teaching Certification and position themselves well for employment. In recent years, all VWU students in the Education Program have signed employment contracts during or soon after completing their student teaching experience.

THE MAJOR

Students seeking licensure with endorsement in Elementary (PreK-6) or Special Education: General Curriculum (K-12) complete a major that reflects the interdisciplinary and interdependent nature of the liberal arts. The Comprehensive Liberal Studies: Curricular Emphasis (CLS:CE) major allows teaching candidates in the above areas to pursue studies in the University's four academic schools while meeting state and national teacher education regulations and standards.

THE COURSES

Coursework in the Comprehensive Liberal Studies: Curriculum Emphasis major provides students initial teaching experience and a broad foundation of cross-disciplinary content knowledge and skills. After acceptance into the Education Program, students take an increasing amount of Education Program coursework relating pedagogical theory to core content knowledge and skills while providing opportunities to apply what they have learned in diverse teaching contexts.

INTERNSHIPS/UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

The coursework provides VWU students multiple diverse teaching contexts which average over 400 hours of teaching experience before VWU students graduate. Innovative internship opportunities include but are not limited to student teaching abroad, instructing campers at Y Camp Red-Feather, and teaching for grant-funded K-12 VWU summer programs.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Education students have multiple opportunities to learn about or share their passion for teaching. Presenting at professional conferences, volunteering at partner schools, volunteering to assist with K-12 field trips on our campus, and membership in the Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society are just a few opportunities for students hoping to become teacher leaders.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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