

Educators require a broad knowledge that involves the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development of students. The use of this knowledge guides learning experiences and enables meaningful relationships with students. Successful educators will be able to consider the social and individual differences that affect interactions in an academic environment including developmental disabilities, attention deficit disorders, gifted education, substance abuse, child abuse, and family disruptions.

THE PROGRAM

Virginia Wesleyan College is known for excellence in preparing classroom teachers. The Professional Education Program provides the highest quality of teaching methodology and disciplinary preparation in the content areas. Unique features of the program include a comprehensive liberal arts education, early field experiences, strong mentoring by faculty and staff, and the development of area school partnerships through advisory committees and school division contacts. The program is reviewed periodically by the Virginia Department of Education and approved by the Virginia Board of Education. All programs fulfill the curricular requirements detailed in the Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia.

THE MAJOR

Students interested in becoming teachers must formally apply for admission to the Professional Education Program following their admission to the College. Packets for admission are to be completed and submitted before the end of the sophomore year and definitely, one semester before enrolling in 300 level classes. Students pursuing Elementary, Middle, or Special Education will complete the Comprehensive Liberal Studies major as the prerequisite to the professional education courses. Students pursuing Secondary Education or Visual Arts, Foreign Language, Vocal/Choral/Theater Arts (Pre-K-12) will complete the state-approved version of the academic major within their chosen discipline along with state required general studies courses and the professional education courses.

THE COURSES

Classes at Virginia Wesleyan College are small and interactive. Education courses include: Characteristics of the Learner, Classroom Management and Teaching Strategies, Literacy

Development and Assessment, and Foundations/Legal/Ethical Issues in Education. Preservice teaching experiences, including an on-campus seminar, for student teachers provides over 300 clock hours and 150 hours of direct instruction.

INTERNSHIPS/UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Observational field experiences are designed to acquaint potential education candidates with the role of teachers and the workings of schools. Teaching practicums provide opportunities to apply teaching methods, practice skills in teaching specific subjects, and learn how to implement classroom management strategies. Placements for all field experiences are in diverse school settings.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

All education programs prepare the successful candidate for licensure with an endorsement in their chosen educational discipline. As stated previously, all programs fulfill the curricular requirements detailed in the Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia. Career assistance is provided to all candidates who successfully complete one of the approved programs.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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