

Accelerated Certification for Teaching (ACT) Program

ACT is an online certificate program designed for individuals who hold a bachelor's degree and seek to qualify for state teacher certification. ACT provides an alternative pathway into teaching for individuals who have not completed a teacher preparation curriculum but who have considerable life experiences, career achievements, and academic backgrounds that are relevant for teaching in grades 5 through 12. Wheeling Jesuit University's teacher preparation program is designed to meet the "highly qualified" requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind Act. The teacher preparation course content is nationally accredited and in good standing with the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) and the West Virginia Department of Education.

The online ACT program is aimed at individual qualification for a West Virginia Teaching Certificate with reciprocity to other states. Through reciprocity agreements between the states, a West Virginia teaching certificate may be converted to the equivalent teaching certificate in another state. If your state of interest is not West Virginia you can learn more by visiting our web site www.online.wju.edu/ACT or speaking with an ACT Counselor.

ACT provides an accelerated path to teacher certification for both those transitioning into a second career as well as those who already serve in the classroom as temporary, emergency, or substitute teachers who need to earn a formal teaching credential. The online ACT program offers you the flexibility to remain in your present career or your classroom while you prepare to fully enter the teaching profession. In the final semester, full time participation will be required as you fulfill the student teaching requirement. Those who are currently in the classroom can use part of their experiences towards this important part of the certification process.

A Practical Timeline to Certification

A personalized Academic Action Plan (AAP) will be devised just for you. Your plan will be based on an analysis of your college/university transcript(s), the Praxis I basic skills assessment and the national Praxis II competency evaluation for your chosen teaching subject/concentration.

Typically, the online ACT program can be completed in as little as 18 months, including student teaching! Completion may take longer for participants who need additional course work in their chosen teaching subject/concentration.

ACT allows you to complete only the requirements you need...not an entire additional bachelor's degree.



Program Features

The ACT program delivers two courses of educator training per semester for 5 terms over an 18 month period. This includes student teaching.

- Each course is content rich and related to 5th -12th grade learning needs.
- Minimal direct, face-to-face campus visits are required allowing you the flexibility to remain living and working in your home town community.
- You will be supported during your student teaching with training by a mentor and through the online community of professionals learning to be educators, just like yourself.

Secondary, 5th -12th grade, Certification Areas (Concentrations) Available

- Biology
- Chemistry
- English
- French
- General Science
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Social Science/History
- Social Science/Political Science
- Spanish
- Add-On Endorsements

Please note that we do not offer preparation for special education or elementary education on-line at this time.

Admission Requirements

- Must hold a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university preferably with a concentration in one of the secondary certification areas available in the ACT program.
- GPA 3.0 in transferred in coursework including concentration
- Qualifying Scores on the Praxis I and II

Please note that in order to be hired in any state school system employees must pass a criminal background check. This is included in the West Virginia Teacher's Certification process.

Tuition and Fees

An up-to-date and complete tuition and fees sheet for the ACT program is available online or from an ACT Counselor. This certificate program is offered for less than half the traditional full-time tuition rate at Wheeling Jesuit University.

Candidates will be asked to write a separate check for their criminal background check which is covered in their teacher license application fee as they conclude their student teaching.



Is Financial Aid Available for the program?

There is financial aid for those who are enrolled in at least 6 credit hours, have filed the FAFSA (www.fafsa.ed.gov), and have not reached their aggregate loan limits for the Federal Stafford Loans. Those who do not qualify for federal aid can apply for a variety of educational loans through private lenders. For more information on loans available, you may call (800) 873-7665 to be transferred to the WJU Financial Aid Office.

As a Service Opportunity College, Wheeling Jesuit University welcomes adult students from the military who are making use of military aid or Montgomery G.I. Bill and other benefits to cover their education costs.

If you are an enlisted military servicemember or a veteran you may be eligible for educational benefits. Additional resources can be found on our web site www.online.wju.edu/ACT or by speaking with an ACT Counselor.

What is my Next Step?

Contact the Department of Conferences and Continuing Education at (800) 873-7665 or (304) 243-2002, or email cace@wju.edu to receive an ACT application for an initial transcript analysis.

Wheeling Jesuit University
Adult and Continuing Education
316 Washington Avenue
Wheeling, WV 26003

Fax: (304) 2443-4441 (temporary copies only)
Email: cace@wju.edu
www.online.wju.edu/ACT

ACT Program Sequence

Spring

Orientation to the Online Environment – non-credit, onsite program

TPP 232 Classroom and Teacher Roles -3 credits

PSY 220 Educational Psychology -3 credits

Summer

Methods of Teaching- (and one of below) – 2 credits

• TPP 310 Secondary English/Language Arts – 1 credit

• TPP 311 Secondary Mathematics/Science – 1 credit

• TPP 312 Secondary Social Sciences – 1 credit

Methods of Teaching is a total of 3 credits with lab work designed specifically for each concentration. The full description of this course was not available at the time of printing this publication. Methods of Teaching requires a face-to-face component, two days on campus, for lab work in concentration area.

TPP 334 The Practice of Teaching -3 credits

Fall

TPP 333 Exceptions and Diversity -3 credits

PSY 216 Adolescent Psychology - 3 credits

Spring

TPP 476 Evaluation -2 credits

TPP 475 Student Teaching Seminar 1 credit

TPP 481 Student Teaching (3-11 credit hours)

Course Descriptions

PSY 216 Adolescent Psychology (3 credits)

A study of basic research and theories concerning development in the adolescent years. Prerequisite: PSY 110. Required for 5-12 Content Specialization licensure.

PSY 220 Educational Psychology (3 credits)

A study of the cognitive and affective dimensions of student behavior with an emphasis on the theoretical conceptions of learning which underlie education methods.

TPP 232C Professional Education II: Classroom and Teacher Roles (2 credits)

Study of teaching focusing on classroom pedagogical and management strategies, development of objectives and lesson plans and discussion and observation of the various roles of a teacher. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing. Corequisite: TPP 232L.

TPP 232L Professional Education II: Classroom and Teacher Roles (1 credits)

Observation and teaching experience under the guidance of the master teacher and university professor. Focus on planning, pacing, strategies. Corequisite: TPP 232C

TPP 310 Integrated Curriculum Development & Methods: Secondary English/Language Arts (3 credits)

Study of English/language arts curriculum incorporating specific methods to prepare students to teach secondary English/language arts. The full description of this course was not available at the time of printing this publication.

TPP 311 Integrated Curriculum Development & Methods: Secondary Mathematics/Science (3 credits)

Study of Mathematics/science curriculum incorporating specific methods to prepare students to teach secondary mathematics/science. The full description of this course was not available at the time of printing this publication.

TPP 312 Integrated Curriculum Development & Methods: Secondary Social Studies (3 credits)

Study of social studies curriculum incorporating specific methods to prepare students to teach secondary social studies. The full description of this course was not available at the time of printing this publication.

TPP 333C Exceptionalities and Diversity (2 credits)

Overview of the characteristics and needs of exceptional and diverse learners and the curricular and instructional alternatives that address these needs. Emphasis will be on accommodations and modifications, data collection, assistive technology and collaboration. This is a service learning course. Corequisite: TPP 333L

TPP 333L Exceptionalities and Diversity Lab (1 credit)

Observation, data collection and teaching experience under the direction of the master teacher and university supervisor in both inclusive and special education classrooms. Corequisite: TPP 333C



TPP 334C The Practice of Teaching (2 credits)

Study of theories and practical applications to develop student mastery of a variety of teaching skills. Technology integration into the content areas, advanced curriculum planning issues, and classroom management strategies are addressed. Prerequisite: TPP 232. Corequisite: TPP 334L

TPP 334L The Practice of Teaching (1 credit)

Observation and teaching experience under the guidance of the master teacher and university supervisor. One lesson taught must include technology and one must be videotaped. Corequisite: TPP 334C

TPP 475 Student Teaching Seminar (1 credit)

Further development of knowledge and skills vital to successful teaching, examination of contemporary issues in education and development of professional portfolio. Taken in conjunction with student teaching. Corequisite: TPP 481

TPP 476 Evaluation (2 credits)

Continuation of the development of the knowledge and skills needed to assess various aspects of teaching and achievement by all learners, the appropriate role of reflection and self-evaluation, the examination of research on assessment and current reform movements as well as classroom, program, individual, formative, summative, traditional and alternative assessment models. Prerequisite: senior standing.

TPP 481 Student Teaching (3 to 11 credits)

A full semester (14 weeks) teaching experience in specific and assigned classes in the licensure content and programmatic area(s) under the direct supervision of a master teacher selected by University faculty. Prerequisite: Major department and TPP approvals.

Note: Wheeling Jesuit University's Teacher Preparation Program functions under approval provided by the West Virginia Department of Education. Course descriptions, credit hours and prerequisites, may be revised based on state requirements.