

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 accelerated 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 a candidate in good standing with the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) and approved by 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 Content Exams

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 Adult and Continuing Education Division at (800) 873-7665 or (304) 243-2250, or email adulced@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

ACT Program Sequence

Spring

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

PED 232 Classroom and Teacher Roles -3 credits

PED 333L Exceptionalities and Diversity -1 credits

PSY 220 Educational Psychology -3 credits

Summer

• PED 210 Educational Technology – 3 credits

• PED 310 Secondary English/Language Arts/Foreign Language – 1 credit

• PED 311 Secondary Mathematics/Science – 1 credit

• PED 312 Secondary Social Sciences – 1 credit

Methods of Teaching requires a face-to-face component, one day on campus, for lab work in concentration area.

PSY 216 Adolescent Psychology - 3 credits

Fall

PED 325 Secondary Methods -1 credit

PED 333C Exceptions and Diversity -2 credits

PED 333L Exceptionalities and Diversity -1 credit

PED 334 The Practice of Teaching -3 credits

Spring

PED 325 Secondary Methods -1 credit

PED 333L Exceptionalities and Diversity -1 credits

PED 475 Student Teaching Seminar 1 credit

PED 476 Evaluation -2 credits

PED 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.

PED/TPP 210 Educational Technology (3 credits)

Experiences in teaching in technology, with technology and through technology by incorporating hands-on work with computers and associated peripherals, the internet, the WWW and content software. Strategies for effective intergration of technology, and the security and ethical issues associated with technology are included.

PED 232C Professional Education II: Classroom and Teacher Roles (2 cr. / spring only)

Study of teaching focusing on classroom pedagogical and management strategies, development of objectives and lesson plans. Discussion and observation of the various roles of a teacher.

PED 232L Professional Education II: Classroom and Teacher Roles (1 cr. / spring only)

Observation and teaching experience under the guidance of the co-operating teacher and university supervisor. Focus on planning, pacing, strategies and teaching planned lessons. Co-requisite: PED 232C

PED 310 Integrated Curriculum Development & Methods: Secondary English/Language Arts/Foreign Language (1 credit)

Study of English/language arts curriculum incorporating specific methods to prepare students to teach secondary English/language arts.

PED 311 Integrated Curriculum Development & Methods: Secondary Mathematics/Science (1 credit)

Study of Mathematics/science curriculum incorporating specific methods to prepare students to teach secondary mathematics/science.

PED 312 Integrated Curriculum Development & Methods: Secondary Social Studies (1 credit)

Study of social studies curriculum incorporating specific methods to prepare students to teach secondary social studies.

PED/TPP 325 Special Topics: Field Experience (1 credit)

Field experiences related to Integrated Curriculum Development & Methods coursework according to secondary teaching discipline interrelating specific subjects methods with other professional teaching practices.

PED 334C The Practice of Teaching (2 cr./fall only)

Systematic introduction to current theory, research and practice in the integration of literacy activities across content areas. Students will work in cooperative groups to design, publish and present a Group Unit using literacy strategies to address and assess content standard objectives. In addition to whole-group discussion, class format requires position papers, peer response, writing workshop and co-operative projects. Prerequisite: satisfactory completion of PED 232. Co-requisite: PED 334F





PED 334F The Practice of Teaching (2 cr./fall only)

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. Co-requisite: PED 334C

PED 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

PED 333F 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

PED/TPP 334C/F The Practice of Teaching: Reading in Content Areas (2 cr. C/ 1 cr. F: total 3/Fall only)

Systematic introduction to current theory, research and practice in the integration of literacy activities across content areas. Students will work in cooperative groups to design, publish and present a group unit using literacy strategies to address and assess content standard objectives. Class involves simulated teaching, discussion, position papers, reflective papers and peer response. Prerequisite: PED/TPP 232. Corequisites: PED/TPP 334C and PED/TPP 334F

PED 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: PED/TPP 481

PED 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.

PED 481 Student Teaching (Variable Credit: 3-11 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 PED/TPP approvals.

Note: Wheeling Jesuit University's Professional Education Department/TPP functions under approval provided by the West Virginia Department of Education. Course descriptions, credit hours or requirements may be revised based on state requirements.