The Warren Wilson College Teacher Candidate is a reflective innovator serving in communities with heart, head, and hands

Welcome to the Warren Wilson College Teacher Education Program

Warren Wilson College has a history of preparing hard-working, skilled, and innovative teachers for Western North Carolina as well as for across the nation and world. The Department of Education invites all students who care about children and adolescents and who are interested in the complexities of teaching and learning.

Graduates of Warren Wilson College’s Teacher Education Program can secure a Class “A” North Carolina initial teaching license. North Carolina has reciprocity with most states, the District of Columbia, and the Overseas Dependent Schools; a teaching license opens many doors. Licensing requirements vary among states, but graduates usually find themselves initially qualified to teach almost anywhere. The Teacher Education Program is approved by the state of North Carolina and is fully accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

Students in the Teacher Education Program at Warren Wilson College can choose to become licensed for:

Elementary Education (grades K-6)
Secondary Education (grades 9-12) upon completion of a major in:
- English
- History and Political Science (and Comprehensive Social Studies)
- Math

We are also proposing a new licensure program to accompany the B.A. in comprehensive science that has been approved by the College.

As a liberal arts institution, Warren Wilson College administers its Teacher Education Program through a cooperative effort of all departments. The Education Department provides the professional education courses and coordinates each program through the advice and governance of the Teacher Education Committee.

The Teacher Education Committee is comprised of the Education Department faculty plus representative departmental faculty from the library, Outdoor Leadership, psychology, and each of the majors that have secondary licensing programs – biology, English, history and political science, and math. There is at least one student representative invited to serve on the committee (usually this person has passed Praxis I and been formally admitted to the Program – students interested in serving should contact the Education Department Chair). In monthly meetings, the Teacher Education Committee (TEC) formally approves students for admission into the Teacher Education Program and recommends them for student teaching placement. In addition, it is the TEC
that determines policies and standards for students in the program, especially as individuals are representing Warren Wilson College in local public schools.

The North Carolina State Board of Education requirements that assure high quality applicants for teacher licensing are incorporated in the program design of the WWC Teacher Education Program. Because licensing requirements do change, students need to keep in close contact with the Education Department and to understand that candidates must meet state requirements at the time they apply for initial license. In other words, although the Warren Wilson College Catalogue is kept current and accurate, and this Teacher Education Handbook is similarly updated, it is possible that requirements will change during a student’s progress through the program. The Education Department Faculty maintains close communications with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Generally, students should follow the advising/tracking sheet’s outline of requirements dated with the year of their preliminary application to the program. If the Program changes its requirements, we arrange to “grandfather in” any advanced students as we can. Any discrepancies or confusions should be brought to the Teacher Education Committee.

Why Pursue a Teaching License?

For students who are committed to public education, there is no question that a teaching license is necessary. Earning a license through Warren Wilson College does not restrict the future teacher to North Carolina. The accredited Teacher Education Program enjoys reciprocal arrangements with 43 states and good transfer of credit through our NCATE accreditation with the rest. If a student is even considering a future in education, an undergraduate program is one of the more cost-effective and convenient ways to earn initial teacher certification.
Reciprocal Licensing Plans

Reciprocity plans allow educators from outside North Carolina to establish eligibility for licensing in this state. Reciprocity applies to the extent that out-of-state education programs are equivalent to North Carolina's standards and guidelines for approved education programs. Certain requirements specific to North Carolina, such as the Praxis Series tests, are not covered by reciprocity and must be met before a clear North Carolina license can be issued.

North Carolina recognizes four teacher education and reciprocal licensing approaches:

- completion of an education program accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE)
- completion of an education program that follows National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) standards
- reciprocity based on interstate agreements. North Carolina has reciprocal contracts with

  Alabama       Louisiana       Oklahoma
  Alaska        Maine          Oregon
  Arkansas      Maryland       Pennsylvania
  California    Massachusetts Rhode Island
  Colorado      Michigan      South Carolina
  Connecticut   Mississippi   Tennessee
  Delaware      Nebraska       Texas
  Florida       Nevada         Utah
  Georgia       New Hampshire Vermont
  Hawaii        New Jersey     Virginia
  Idaho         New Mexico     Washington
  Illinois      New York      West Virginia
  Indiana       North Dakota  Wyoming
  Kansas        Ohio          District of Columbia
  Kentucky

- completion of a state-approved program not accredited by NCATE, approved through the interstate agreement, or based on NASDTEC guidelines.

Reciprocity does not guarantee that all areas of licensure will transfer directly from one state to another, but applicants will receive the closest comparable North Carolina areas. In some cases, North Carolina grade level definitions (e.g., elementary and secondary) may differ from those in other states, and such a difference may be reflected on the North Carolina license.