Language, Literacy, and Cultural Studies Major and Elementary Education Certification

The Bachelor of Arts in Education: Language, Literacy, and Cultural Studies (LLC) major responds to the growing diversity in the state’s schools and supports the Woodring College of Education’s efforts to embrace diversity and promote social justice. The major focuses on research-based and experience-validated knowledge to help elementary school teachers reach all students. This includes increasing teacher candidates’ cultural competency and capacity to teach English language learners. Those who successfully complete the program will receive WWU’s recommendation for a Residency Teaching Certificate with endorsements in Elementary Education, Reading, and English Language Learners (ELL); and/or Bilingual Education (BE) after passing the state-required test in each area. Students who complete this major will also receive TESOL P-12 Focus or Bilingual Education Minor.

Highly Recommended Pre-requisites Prior to Admission

In order to complete the program in a timely manner, it is strongly recommended that, prior to applying, you complete:

- ENG 370 or LING 201 or ELL 432 (ELL 432 is included in the Language, Literacy, and Cultural Studies major)
- MATH 112 or WWU Math Placement Assessment, ALEKS, with a minimum score of 35, or Approved Intermediate Algebra or College Algebra or Pre-Calculus Course at a Community College
- SCED 201 or equivalent & The Natural Sciences block of GURs

Admission and Retention

Admission to Western Washington University and admission to Elementary Education are required before a student may begin taking courses in the Professional Sequence. Requirements for consideration of an application include:

- minimum of 75 college level credits completed by the application due date, or anticipated DTA AA degree by admissions quarter start date. AP and IB credits can count towards the 75 required credits
- grade point average of 2.75 or higher (cumulative or last 45+ graded credits)
- meet the WEST-B Requirement. This requirement may be met by: Passing the West-Be exam in Reading, Writing, and Math OR SAT minimum scores in Reading, Writing, and Math OR ACT minimum scores in Reading, Writing, and Math. Applicants may meet this requirement through a combination of West-B, SAT, or ACT scores
- completion of an English composition course with grade of B- or higher
- completed application

Enrollment restrictions apply in all teacher education programs. Meeting the above criteria makes the applicant eligible for admission, but does not guarantee admission. Applications from students who meet all the criteria are evaluated to determine those most qualified. All applicants are then rank-ordered, and a final list created based on available openings. For further information, visit Teacher Education Admissions, Miller Hall 150, call 360-650-3310 or visit the web site at wce.wwu.edu/admissions/elementary-education

Retention in the program requires continuous demonstration of competence in standard oral and written English in all course work. Retention also requires maintenance of a 2.75 quarterly GPA for each quarter upon admission to Elementary Education. Courses required for a state teaching endorsement and for the professional education sequence must be completed with a grading of C (2.0) or better.
**Student Advisement**

Prospective LLC students are invited to meet with an advisor for more information. Students cannot declare the major until they are admitted into the Elementary Education Professional Program. Prior to being admitted to the program, students may take AMST courses and ELL 431 and ELL 432 (with permission). Please refer to the University Course Catalog for a list of AMST courses that can be applied to the major. Once admitted to the program, students are assigned a faculty advisor with whom they will stay in contact throughout their program.

**Reading Endorsement**

The competencies that lead to a reading endorsement on your certificate provide you with the opportunity to further your knowledge and skills for literacy instruction. You will deepen your knowledge of language and literacy learning, while building your capacity for helping all children achieve as readers, writers, and language users. Some teachers with Reading endorsements go on to become school Reading Specialists. Reading Specialists are usually experienced teachers who have successfully taught in mainstream classrooms for several years and have previously earned the Reading endorsement. Many earn a master’s degree or National Board certification in Reading prior to becoming a school or district Reading Specialist. The Reading endorsement program prepares you to:

- Obtain the WA state endorsement for Reading
- Develop and work with P-12 students and their families
- Serve as a resource for other teachers

For complete information about the reading endorsement please see Reading Endorsement for P-12 Teachers. Dr. Riddle Buly is the current advisor for reading endorsements.

**ELL Endorsement**

Teachers with the endorsement in English Language Learners (ELL) from Western Washington University possess in-depth understandings of the role of cultural and linguistic diversity in each student’s education. Our program focuses on developing the mainstream P-12 classroom teacher’s ability to shelter and support the instruction of language learners in mainstream classrooms, who are at all levels of fluency, as they work to achieve state expectations in subject matter content. Some teachers with ELL endorsements go on to become school ELL Specialists. ELL Specialists are usually experienced teachers who have taught language learners successfully for several years and have previously earned the ELL endorsement. Many earn a master’s degree or National Board certification in ELL prior to becoming a school or district ELL Specialist. The ELL Endorsement program prepares you to:

- Obtain the WA state endorsement for English Language Learners
- Teach a range of language learners in a mainstream classroom
- Work with families from various cultures and home languages
- Serve as a resource for other teachers
- Plan instruction using the Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP)
- Instruct using effective methods including strategies from the Guided Language Acquisition Design (GLAD)
- Thrive in culturally and linguistically diverse settings

For complete information about the ELL endorsement please see ELL Endorsement. The current advisor for ELL endorsements is Dr. Jennifer Green.

**Bilingual Endorsement**

If you are also seeking a bilingual endorsement, or curious about what that requires, please contact the bilingual endorsement adviser, Dr. Marsha Riddle Buly.