

SEED: Secondary Education for Equity & Diversity

Frequently Asked Questions

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What is SEED (Secondary Education for Equity & Diversity)?

SEED is a secondary teacher education program that is a partnership between Western's Woodring College of Education and Everett, Mount Vernon, Burlington Edison, Ferndale and LaConner School Districts. It is designed to support working instructional assistants and youth workers who possess rich life and professional experience to become teachers and meet state and district identified shortage areas. In the one-year program, teacher candidates will earn dual endorsements in a secondary (6 – 12) content area and in ELL or Bilingual Education. While the curriculum parallels that of campus based programs, it is anchored in the experience of the future teachers and focuses on developing competencies in teaching while working in schools. The program has an explicit commitment to educational equity and culturally relevant teaching that affirms the language, culture, and identities of our students and their families.

Is this the program for me?

The program partners are actively recruiting candidates who have successful experience working with bilingual and culturally diverse youth and families in school and community settings. Candidates who are bilingual, have school or community experience with diverse or low income youth, a demonstrated commitment to educational equity, and who have expertise in shortage areas will be given preference in admissions decisions. The program is intended to support candidates who have a commitment to live and work in the communities in which they develop as a teacher.

What is an alternative route to certification program?

The Washington State legislature created alternative routes to certification programs (<http://pathway.pesb.wa.gov/alternate-routes-to-certification>) to develop teachers for areas identified as shortage areas by the state and local districts. These programs are designed to support people already working in schools (Route 1, 2 & 4) as well as those who possess expertise in shortage areas and experience with youth (Route 3). Recognizing that many mature and talented people may not be able to pursue teaching through traditional programs, alternative routes anchor the academic and professional preparation in the experience and expertise of the program's candidates. The program is structured to allow working professionals to continue working as much as possible in schools while they complete their degrees. SEED's alternative route is individualized to design the best professional preparation to meet high standards for new teachers in a way that builds on the candidates' strengths, needs and situation.

Why is ELL combined with a Secondary Content Endorsement?

Students who enter our public schools learning English often require 7 – 10 years to gain academic proficiency in language and content. If students receive native language instruction and / or have teachers who possess the knowledge and strategies to support them, this timeline shortens. However, recent research shows that once students close this achievement gap, it begins to widen again if their secondary teachers do not explicitly teach academic language and literacy through engaging and relevant content. Teachers make a huge difference in closing the opportunity gap for our schools bilingual learners. All program graduates will be prepared to teach English learners, either in the role of an ELL specialist or as a dedicated and effective teacher of English learners in the content area classrooms.

Do I need to be bilingual to earn an ELL endorsement?

The language of instruction for ELL teachers, either in a classroom or in a pull out sessions, is English. Even teachers who have never learned a language other than English can become outstanding teachers for their bilingual students and can develop strategies to support native language development. Teachers can learn how to make connections between home and school to support academics and can communicate with parents who do not speak English. Having the experience of learning another language can catalyze your understanding of how languages are learned and supported. Being able to support students' learning in their first language and communicate with parents in that heritage language is also an asset. So this program does give preference to candidates who are bilingual. But ALL teachers can become excellent teachers of bilingual students and work collaboratively with their families – so being bilingual is not a requirement.

What are the pre - requisites?

All candidates must have a Bachelor's degree by the time the program begins. The state requires completion of a basic skills test in reading, writing and math. This requirement can be met through the SAT, ACT or WEST B basic skills test. In addition, candidates must complete the content area test (WEST E or NES) in which they are pursuing a qualifying endorsement (i.e.: Social Studies, English Language Arts, Spanish, Math, Science, etc.). Candidates will take the WEST E for ELL or Bilingual Education upon completion of the program. Official scores for required tests must be received by May 28 to be eligible for the conditional loan scholarship.

What will the program require of me in terms of time commitment, classes and internships?

This is an intensive academic and professional program that combines coursework (in person and online) with experience in a year long mentored internship. The second cohort of the program will begin in Summer of 2017. Candidates will begin their yearlong internship when teachers return to school and will gradually assume more responsibility for teaching through the academic year. Candidates will have 2 student teaching experiences, in Summer of 2017 and Spring of 2018, in which they will be responsible for all planning, teaching and assessment of students. Academic coursework will be held on the university schedule on Wednesdays 4:30 – 8:30 and Saturday's 8:30 – 4:30. The 12 hours of class time each week will be complemented by both academic and experiential assignments. We will use an online system to share readings and assignments but we can help with technology of this if this presents a barrier for any participant. We anticipate alternating locations for

courses between Everett Community College and Skagit Valley Colleges. The program finishes in Spring of 2018, with support to complete the state required Teacher Performance Assessment in Spring.

Schedule: Schedule for advising, admissions and course schedule to be posted by February 1, 2017.

What will the program cost?

Student participants will be responsible for the following estimated out-of-pocket expenses (unless supplemented through the grant or other resources from the Teacher Preparation Program, District, and/or other partners as listed as supplemented). These costs may change slightly as they are projections based on 2016 – 17 fees.

WWU Application Fee (\$ 55)	\$ 55.00
Course Textbooks	\$800.00 (estimated)
West B Pre-Admission Tests	\$120.00 (plus registration fee of \$35 / session)
Out of Pocket Tuition Costs	\$2720.00 (beyond the \$8000 conditional loan scholarship)
EdTPA Scoring Fee (Spring 2017)	\$300.00
WEST E Test Fee for Content Area	\$155.00 (including registration fee)
WEST-E Test Fee for ELL (Summer 2017)	\$155.00 (including registration fee)
Endorsement Certificate Fee	\$124.00 (current fee if all endorsements completed at program end)
Bilingual WEST-E Test Fee	\$155.00 (including registration – only for qualified individuals)
ACTFL Foreign Language Exam Only needed for Bilingual Endorsement Seekers	\$ 80.00 (estimated – only for qualified individuals)
Additional Endorsement Certificate Fee	\$ 54.00 (current fee to add after initial program completion)
TOTAL ESTIMATED Out-Of-Pocket Costs For Each Participant	\$4429.00 (for Secondary 6-12 content area & ELL Endorsements) Optional for Eligible Candidates \$289.00 (For Bilingual Endorsements for Eligible Candidates)

NOTE: Classes will be held at both Everett Community College and at Skagit Valley College throughout the program's duration. So **costs for transportation** is also a consideration that will be factored into financial aid awards. We did not set a price in the schedule above, as this will vary so widely. We will help to facilitate car pools for those who want to travel together.

What financial aid is available?

The program will have 15 Conditional Loan Scholarships of \$8000 to award to teacher candidates admitted to the program by June 1, 2017. Priority will be given to those who meet the preference criteria of the grant (see above). We encourage all candidates to submit a FAFSA form <https://fafsa.ed.gov/> (available Oct. 1, 2016) to determine eligibility for financial aid. We also encourage candidates to apply for scholarships through Woodring College of Education <https://wce.wwu.edu/scholarships/woodring-scholarships> and other sources. http://www.finaid.wvu.edu/scholarships/pages/wwu_scholarships.php Many scholarships are need based and some ask for the FAFSA score to determine need. Fee waivers may be available, allocation of these waivers use the FAFSA to determine need.

What is a conditional loan scholarship?

The state offers qualified candidates financial support through an \$8000 loan that becomes a scholarship once the candidate has completed 2 year of teaching. It is conditional, if the candidate decides not to pursue teaching or leaves the field before 2 years, and then the candidate is responsible for repaying all or part of the loan with interest. The state also asks program providers to offer teacher candidates a reduced rate of tuition to limit the cost of the program. In the case of SEED, the conditional loan pays nearly 80% of the tuition for the entire program but as noted there are additional costs listed above.

What are the next steps to apply for the program?

Priority Admissions for the 2017 - 2018 will be completed by April 1, 2017. Scholarship deadline is June 1, 2017. We recommend all tests be taken and passed by April 16 to allow for official scores to arrive at WWU.

How can I get the application materials and information to apply?

Application materials are available upon request from program coordinator or director.

What happens if I do not meet testing requirements, am not ready or am not admitted by June 1, 2017?

All required testing (WEST B Reading, Writing & Math or equivalent passing scores in ACT /SAT AND a WWU approved WEST E or NES Content Area test) and paperwork for the conditional loan scholarships must be completed by June 1, 2017 to meet the Washington State deadline for this funding. We will continue to admit candidate after this date until we reach the 25 teacher candidate enrollment limit for those who choose to seek other funding.

Program Overview & Calendar of Expectations

Course Dates by Quarter:

Dates	Time Commitment	Description	Location(s)
July – August Dates TBD	All Day: M – Th Approximately 6 weeks	Summer Intensive / ELL Teaching	Skagit Valley
Late August to Mid June	Follows School Calendar – begins as teachers return to school and ends when teachers leave in June.	Mentored Internship Opening Days of School (Sept. 2017): Candidates will be in schools with observations, assignments to complete before Fall Academic classes begin.	Your school site – determined by assigned mentor
Sept. 27 – Dec. 15 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wed. 4:30 – 8:30 Sat. 8:30 – 4:30 Online Reading /Assignments 	Fall Quarter Expect one day each week (or equivalent) in classes – will be individualized with your mentor teacher’s and your schedule).	Location of classes will alternate between Everett Community College & Skagit Valley College to accommodate students from our NW region.
Jan. 9 – March 23, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wed. 4:30 – 8:30 Sat. 8:30 – 4:30 Online Reading /Assignments 	Winter Quarter Expect two days each week (or equivalent) in classes – will be individualized with your mentor teacher’s and your schedule).	Everett Community College & Skagit Valley College
April 4 - June 15, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wed. 4:30 – 8:30 Sat. 8:30 – 4:30 Online Reading /Assignments 	Spring Quarter: <i>We will make accommodations for Spring Break since District & School Calendars do not align.</i> Increasing teaching responsibility leading to a full time student teaching experience. Support for writing the edTPA and WEST E for ELL (required for certification).	Everett Community College & Skagit Valley College