Western Washington University’s Teacher Education Outreach Programs (TEOP) offer professional education programs that lead to recommendation to the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction for residency certification in the state of Washington. This unit offers courses and certification on Western’s main campus and at the outreach sites in Bremerton, Everett, and Seattle. The sequence of study is designed for students who hold a transferable Associate of Arts degree (DTA) from a Washington State community college, have satisfied Western’s General University Requirements, or have a bachelor’s degree and are seeking certification. Students begin the program in the fall, and using a cohort model, move through the program together.

What degree and/or certification will I earn in this program?

Upon completion of the program, students will earn either a:
- Bachelor of Arts in Education, with a residency teacher certificate and an elementary education endorsement, or
- Bachelor of Arts in Education, with a residency teacher certificate, and dual endorsements in special and elementary education, or
- A Post-Baccalaureate residency teacher certificate with elementary education endorsement. A second endorsement in Special Education is available.

What if I’m a certified teacher and want a special education endorsement?
We offer a 45-credit special education endorsement for certified teachers. Classes are taken in the evening with undergraduate special education majors.

How are classes scheduled?
Students complete approximately 12 credits per quarter requiring 3-4 nights/week of classroom attendance. Classes are primarily held evenings, fall through summer, 5:00 or 5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. or 9:30 p.m., in local community college classrooms.

Undergraduate – Approximately 141 credits over 11 quarters
Post-Baccalaureate - Approximately 99 quarter credit hours spread over 7 quarters
Additional Special Education Endorsement - Approximately 6 quarters
Face-to-Face and/or Online – Most classes are held in a classroom setting with the possibility of some online instruction. On occasion, an entire class may be offered online.

When can I apply to the program and the university?
March 1st is the priority application date for all TEOP sites. All final admission decisions must be made by July 1st. Admission is dependent on forming viable cohorts of students. Candidates who have completed all admissions requirements and have submitted completed applications by March 1st will be given priority when cohorts are being formed. Because the reception of official transcripts may be delayed, in order to facilitate the admission process, candidates should be prepared to submit copies of all transcripts to the program coordinator at their site by March 1st. All transcripts must be included with applications, even if candidates took only one or two classes at a college or university.

For admissions information and to request an application packet (WWU and program specific) contact a Program Coordinator at the site nearest to you.

Bremerton: Michael White  360-475-7269
Everett: Jillian Gooding  425-405-1646
Seattle: Angeline Ocampo  206-934-6052
Special Education endorsement only: John Riopelle 360-650-6292
Elementary Education endorsement only: John Riopelle 360-650-6292

What are admission requirements?
Complete WWU GURs, a Direct Transfer AA, or a Bachelor’s Degree
Grade point average, overall or last 45 credits, of 2.75 or higher
Satisfaction of WEST-B, SAT, or ACT requirement
English composition course with a grade of B- or higher

What is the math pre-requisite?
You will be required to take Math 381, Math 382, and Math 383 to satisfy requirements for teacher certification. The Math 381 requirement can be met in one of the following ways:

1. Obtain a grade of C or better in an Intermediate Algebra, College Algebra or Pre-Calculus course at a regionally accredited college or university within the last five years.
2. Obtain a grade of C or better in Western’s MATH 112 within the last five years.
3. Obtain a passing score on the Mathematics Placement Test (MPT). The MPT is offered at WWU’s Testing Center in Bellingham, or the University of Washington Testing Center.

Why do I need to demonstrate competency in Intermediate Algebra content, when I intend to be a teacher at the elementary level?
WWU’s Woodring College of Education deemed it a necessity to prepare elementary education teachers to higher standards of skill and knowledge in the areas of math and science. Students may never teach an algebra course, but they will be preparing students for learning algebra. Furthermore, the professional standards in mathematics established by both the State of Washington and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics stress the teaching of algebraic ideas beginning with the early primary grades.

Where can I find information on transfer equivalencies?
Both prospective and current students can look up detailed information regarding course equivalencies at the community colleges online Transfer Equivalency Guide.

Are Fee Reduction and Tuition Waivers available?
Most of our programs are self-supporting. Fee reductions and tuition waivers are not applicable to courses within self-supporting programs. Programs operated at the University Center of North Puget Sound in Everett are state-supported. For information on general university tuition waivers that may be applicable to state-supported programs, go to http://www.wwu.edu/sbo/tuition-waivers.shtml

I’m a Post-Bac student. What are the approved majors for this program?
Anthropology, Art, Biology, Communication, English, Environmental Studies, Foreign Language, General Science, Geography, Geology, History, Humanities, Mathematics, Music, Psychology, Social Studies, Sociology, and Special Education. Some coursework from non-approved majors may be accepted. Contact the site program coordinator for details.

How much are course costs and fees?
To request updated registration and course fees please contact a Program Coordinator.

When do I need to apply for financial aid?
Western’s academic year is from fall through spring quarter. You must complete the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.gov for each academic year. Western’s FAFSA filing priority date is February 15th. If you have any questions please visit the Financial Aid Department webpage at: www.finaid.wwu.edu, or contact them by phone at 360-650-3470, or by email at financialaid@wwu.edu.

Western’s Financial Aid Code: 003802

If going to summer session is a required part of the program, will I be able to use my financial aid?
Summer financial aid eligibility is limited to any unused annual eligibility in:

The Federal Direct Stafford Loan program (undergrads & grads)
Pell Grant (for Pell recipients—undergrads only)
Grad PLUS (for Graduate students)—up to the estimated cost of attendance
PLUS (Federal Plus loan for parents of undergraduates)
Alternative Educational Loans (loans that undergrads & grads can take from a private lender)

In short, while loans are a form of financial aid, summer aid is limited to loans, with the exception of the small number of summer Pell recipients. Getting the right answer to the student requires a case-by-case review of their file by the Financial Aid Department.

Are there scholarships available through WWU?
Scholarships are available and are listed on our website. It is also recommended that you access any search engine and search for Educational Scholarships, as there are scholarships available through sources other than WWU. Students who are enrolled in or are applying to self-sustaining courses or programs should contact the Scholarship Center for specific eligibility requirements. Self-supporting courses may not meet the eligibility requirements for all scholarships offered through the Scholarship Center.

Once I’m admitted to Woodring, what else do I need to do besides take classes?
You will need to complete a fingerprint background check, Character and Fitness Questionnaire, and a Professionalism workshop, which is provided by your site.

Can you tell me about fingerprinting and State Patrol/FBI background checks?
A completed Character & Fitness Questionnaire and fingerprint Washington State Patrol (WSP) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) background checks are all clearances that are required prior to a student engaging in field experiences or other service learning activities associated with the academic program. See Woodring’s Character and Fitness Requirements website. Clearances must be good for the entire quarter in order to register for field experience. Clearances are valid for two years. You may need to renew your fingerprinting and Character & Fitness Questionnaire prior to your student teaching internship.

What is the difference between an "Elementary Education" endorsement and a "K-8 Elementary Education" endorsement?
There is no difference between an "Elementary Education" endorsement and a "K-8 Elementary Education" endorsement. Although the state eliminated grade levels from the endorsement listed on all teaching certificates issued 9/1/2000 and later, classroom assignment policies are prescribed through a specific rule, which specifically states:

Classroom teachers with initial, residency, endorsed continuing, or professional teacher certificates who have an elementary education endorsement may be assigned to teach any subject in grades K-8.

Although you are authorized by the state to teach K-8, you must also meet the federal Highly Qualified Teacher requirement to teach core academic subjects at the middle level. Please see the next question on Highly Qualified Teacher requirements.

How does the Highly Qualified Teacher requirements affect an Elementary Education endorsement?
Teacher education programs must meet both State and Federal standards. To teach core academic subjects in the middle school grades, school districts are now required by federal mandate to recruit only Highly Qualified Teachers (HQT). Applicable Federal HQT definition requires either 45 credits in the academic subject area or a passing WEST-E test score in the subject area.

One option for ELED students wishing to teach in middle school is to prepare for the WEST-E test applicable to their area of interest. Please go to the HQT webpage (link below) which provides contextual information and updates. Also, from there, you may access a guide for how you can meet both State and Federal HQT requirements.

Dana Edward, WCE’s Director of Certification and Accreditation, will provide individual advising to anyone who needs assistance in assessing their options. Contact Ms. Edward (Dana.Edward@wwu.edu or 360-650-4630)

How will taking all of the required Special Education classes prepare me for teaching in a regular classroom?
The trend toward inclusion of students with special needs in the regular classroom coupled with shifting demographic patterns and the growth of poverty in the U.S. has blurred the boundaries between "regular" and "special" education. Today's teachers in both regular and Special Education classrooms must be prepared to address the diverse learning needs of students, regardless of the nature of student learning needs or the existence of a formal classification in Special Education. For general education teaching positions, school districts typically give preference to candidates who have completed multiple endorsements.

Can you tell me about the program’s student teaching requirements?
The final quarter of the program will culminate in a full-time student teaching internship. The calendar for the internship will be set by each individual site. During the student teaching internship, student teachers are required to be in the assigned classroom full time. Unless given specific approval, interns are not to take coursework or hold a job during the internship. The edTeacher Performance Assessment is a required part of the internship. Please visit wce.wwu.edu/ofe/teacher-performance-assessment for additional information.
Are there practical teaching experiences other than the student teaching internship?
Practicum field instruction, designed to give students a supervised practical application of their coursework, is an integral part of our teacher training program. Practical teaching experiences spread throughout the program, covering all subject areas, are held at various times during the day - fall through spring quarters.

Why are there multiple practica?
State standards require education students to acquire classroom experience at the very beginning of their training. This will give them a sense of whether or not they have the commitment and temperament for teaching, and provide multiple opportunities to apply academic training to practical situations.

May I take classes at other WWU Teacher Education Outreach Program sites?
Students may not take classes at a WWU Teacher Education Outreach Program (TEOP) site other than their home site without the permission of their Academic Program Director and the Assistant Dean for Woodring Outreach Programs. A petition is required with each request.

One important qualification is that the availability of specific courses at other sites may not coincide with the home site schedule of classes, i.e., class time conflicts are inevitable. **Failing to take even a single class with the cohort may have unforeseen repercussions for the individual student, and WWU is under no obligation to ensure all classes are available to all students at all times.** We will do our best, but make no guarantees.

It is always preferable to keep with the sequence of classes as scheduled for the student’s own cohort.

As an undergraduate, may I select a major other than Special Education?
The short answer is no, but here’s why.

On the main campus in Bellingham, Western Washington University and Woodring College of Education offer several program options for students seeking a Bachelor of Arts in Education with teacher certification and a range of majors. Special Education is one of these majors. In the fall of 2006, WWU made the Special Education major available to students in the Elementary Education program located at various TEOP sites. At that time, math and science coursework and practica were also enhanced in a comprehensive response to local, state, and national calls for more highly qualified teachers. The adoption of the Special Education major with enhanced math and science, allows our teacher candidates to develop a sound pedagogical background towards meeting the needs of all students in our increasingly inclusive general education classrooms. Thus, another way to look at this major is its marketability when compared to other majors.

Other majors are not offered at our TEOP sites in Bremerton, Everett, and Seattle due to the prohibitive cost of replicating all WWU’s colleges and departments at each site.

If I complete the Special Education major, will I have to become a special education teacher? Taking the Special Education major does not mean program completers must become special education teachers. In fact, the majority of our students accept general education positions. The reason for this is that school districts are looking for general educators with extensive preparation in special education, given that academically diverse classrooms are becoming the norm rather than the exception. In this sense, school district employers view special education as synonymous with effective teaching.

I have heard it is really difficult to get admitted into WWU’s teacher education programs. Is this true? WWU and Woodring College of Education require all teacher education candidates to meet high professional standards. This is one of the many reasons why graduates of WWU’s teacher education programs are recognized for excellence throughout the state and the region. WWU has long adopted uniform admission requirements for all WWU sites, and admission into our programs is competitive. Applicants who are successful in seeking admission to WWU’s teacher education programs have done their homework well with respect to admission requirements, and many have consulted with site faculty and staff throughout the application process.

Internship Options: TEOP ELED Programs Advisement:
In terms of candidate marketability for employment, Option 1 is preferable according to school district personnel. Employment data from WWU first year out surveys suggests better than 90% of dual endorsement students were employed in full time teaching positions at the time of the survey.

In keeping with internship options offered through the Special Education department’s Elementary and Special Education Dual
Endorsement program in Bellingham, the following internship options are available to undergraduates in the BAE Special Education major and to post-baccalaureate students in the Elementary teacher certification program offered at WWU’s sites in Bremerton, Everett, and Seattle. Students should carefully consider these options prior to meeting with staff from Office of Field Experiences (OFE). Students must be prepared to select an option when meeting with OFE staff well prior to the year-long internship. Year-long internship placements will then be made with school districts based on student selection of options. Students will select their internship option at the beginning of their second year of the program at a meeting scheduled by OFE staff. Students who expect to receive financial aid throughout their internship(s) should consult with the Financial Aid Office.

Students who wish to change their selection must petition to do so, given that placements are made several quarters to a year in advance of the internship.

**Note 1:** Students selecting Option 1 who intend to graduate between the spring and fall internships and who expect to receive financial aid during the second internship must consult with the Financial Aid Office.

**Note 2:** Students selecting Option 2 who later decide at some point in the future to complete the second internship in order to earn the additional endorsement, are not guaranteed admission and an internship placement. Admission requirements may change over time, and internship placements must be made well in advance.

**Undergraduate Students:**

**OPTION 1:** BAE Special Education Major, Teacher Certification, Elementary Endorsement plus Special Education Endorsement: Elementary Education Internship in spring with Special Education Internship the following fall

This option is intended for students who plan to have elementary education as their primary career focus and would like additional qualifications in special education.

Washington State [content knowledge test](#) is required prior to internship.

Part 1: Starting in fall quarter of their final year, students will be placed for the school year in a general education classroom, completing the SPED 482 practicum in the fall (math focus), followed by the SPED 481 practicum in winter quarter (literacy focus), and concluding with the ELED 494 Internship in spring quarter. This is often referred to as a year-long placement or internship. Students will complete elementary and special education competencies by working with students facing various challenges in the classroom regardless of formal classifications, and in keeping with the intent of the program which is to prepare thoughtful, knowledgeable, and effective teachers who can address the needs of all students in today’s diverse classrooms. The edTeacher Performance Assessment is a required part of the internship.

Part 2: After completing the elementary education internship in a general education classroom, students will return in fall quarter to complete a 16 credit internship in a special education setting and graduate. Students will complete additional special education competencies by working with students with identified special needs.

**Note:** Students who intend to graduate between the spring and fall internships and who expect to receive financial aid during the second internship must consult with the Financial Aid Office. A petition to graduate between internships is also required.

**OPTION 2:** BAE Special Education Major, Teacher Certification, Elementary Endorsement ONLY: Elementary Education Internship in spring

This option is intended for students who plan to have elementary education as their primary career focus.

Washington State [content knowledge test](#) is required prior to internship.

**Post Baccalaureate Students:**

**Teacher Certification, Elementary Endorsement**

Starting in fall quarter of their second and final year, post baccalaureate students will be placed for the school year in a general education classroom, completing the SPED 440 practicum in the fall, followed by the ELED 479 practicum in winter quarter, and concluding with the ELED 494 Internship in spring quarter. This is often referred to as a year-long placement or internship. Students will complete all elementary and some special education competencies by working with students facing various challenges in the
classroom regardless of formal classifications, and once again in keeping with the intent of the program to prepare thoughtful, knowledgeable, and effective teachers who can address the needs of all students in today’s diverse classrooms.

Washington State content knowledge test is required prior to internship.

**What is the difference between a Special Education major and a Special Education endorsement?**

Students seeking a Bachelor of Arts in Education must have a major, and the Special Education major is the only major now offered to undergraduates at WWU’s Teacher Education Outreach Program sites in Bremerton, Everett, and Seattle.

WWU also offers a Special Education endorsement to certified teachers wishing to obtain qualifications to teach in a special education setting. Only certified teachers may seek to add a Special Education endorsement to their teaching credentials. With a few exceptions, the coursework and practica offered in the Special Education major is comparable to that which is offered in the endorsement. For the most part, undergraduate Special Education majors and certified teachers seeking a Special Education endorsement attend the same classes. For students in the undergraduate Bachelor of Arts in Education program, it is possible to earn the Special Education endorsement, in addition to the Special Education major, by completing a second internship in a special education setting.

**BAE Without Certification Question**

I have heard that I can apply for a Bachelors in Education (BAE) without certification in order to graduate with my cohort, and then come back and do my Elementary internship sometime later when it is more convenient for me. Is this true?

The BAE without certification is typically made available only to students who do not wish to become certified, preferring instead a career in education that does not include classroom teaching. Students requesting a BAE without certification are required to submit a petition in the fall or winter prior to the spring internship quarter. Students graduating with a BAE without certification who later change their minds may reapply to WWU. There is no guarantee of readmission to WWU. Because teacher education requirements change over time, students who are readmitted will be subject to program requirements current upon readmission. Additional classes may have to be taken, and additional state requirements may have to be met prior to the internship.

**I have more questions that are not addressed here. Who can answer my specific questions?** Individuals interested in obtaining specific information should contact the site Program Coordinator for schedules of information sessions.