FAQ for Post Baccalaureate and Master of Arts in Teaching: Initial Teacher Certification Programs.

Below you will find a list of frequently asked questions with answers and helpful links for the Post Baccalaureate certification programs, and Master of Arts in Teaching programs.

1. **What programs are available?**

We have several options for prospective students seeking a teaching license at the graduate level, including a stand-alone graduate certification program, and a Master of Arts in Teaching program with en-route certification. These stand-alone Post Baccalaureate (PB) certification programs are as follow:

- Elementary (K-6)
- Elementary with a subject area endorsement for Middle School (K-6/5-8)
    o Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, World Languages
- Elementary with an endorsement in Teacher of Students with Disabilities

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS THAT HAVE REQUIREMENTS OTHER THAN THOSE LISTED ON THIS PAGE

- Secondary Education in Math or Science – Master of Arts in Teaching
  (PLEASE CONTACT DR. FALLACE at fallacet@wpunj.edu)
- Secondary Subject Area Certification (K-12)
  English, History, Art, Music, World Languages (Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Spanish)
  (PLEASE CONTACT DR. FALLACE at fallacet@wpunj.edu)
  (For Physical Education, please contact Dr. Flores-Marti at floresmartii@wpunj.edu.)
- Early Childhood, P-3 (For Early Childhood, P-3, we have a Modified Alternate Route program. Contact Dr. Seplocha at seplochah@wpunj.edu. Does NOT feed into the MAT program.)

There is also the option of the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program. The above Post Baccalaureate programs (K-6, K-6/5-8, and K-6 TSD) can serve as "Phase I" in the 2 phase MAT program. For "Phase 2", students complete 9 credits of upper level electives appropriate to their certification area, and 6 credits of educational research.

2. **What are the requirements for admission and how do I apply?**

Requirements include the completion of an Undergraduate Degree with a minimum GPA of 3.0. All students will be required to take the Praxis CORE in Reading, Writing, and Math. See http://www.ets.org/praxis/about/core/.   All applicants must pass thee appropriate Praxis II Exam: Elementary Subjects for all Post Bac applicants, PLUS the appropriate Middle School Subject exam for applicants seeking the 5-8 endorsement. See http://www.ets.org/praxis/nj/requirements for New Jersey testing requirements.

Degree requirements differ based on the certification sought.

- K-6 and K-6 TSD: A major in an approved "Liberal Arts" or a minimum of 60 credits in "Liberal Arts".
- K-6/5-8: Same as K-6 but with a minimum of 15 credits in the area of endorsement sought.
- If you hold a Certificate of Eligibility in the area in which you are seeking to be certified, that would suffice for the "degree requirements".

Additional admissions requirements include an admissions essay; see http://www.wpunj.edu/dotAsset/165913.pdf for guidelines. Two letters of recommendation are needed, to be on official letterhead, signed, and dated by the recommender. Apply through the Graduate Admissions Page: http://www.wpunj.edu/admissions/graduate/

3. **What are the requirements of the programs?**

Please note that all of these programs have multiple clinical experiences which will require that you spend time in our partner schools during the school day. The programs differ somewhat in their requirements, but all include a full semester of Student Teaching (full time clinical experience). Each also has additional part time clinical experiences. For all programs, at least one of your clinical experiences must be completed in a High Needs school. (See http://www.state.nj.us/education/finance/sf/dfg.shtml for school district factor grouping. A, B, C, D are considered high needs.) For the clinical experiences, you need to apply one year in advance; applications must be reviewed and signed by the program director. Applications can be accessed at http://www.wpunj.edu/coe/departments/field/applications.dot.

All courses are offered on weekday evenings, and clinical experiences are offered during the school day. The credit requirements for the certification are as follow:

- K-6: 30 credits
- K-6/5-8: 34 credits
- K-6/TSD: 46 credits

To obtain the MAT degree, candidates would complete an additional 15 credits – 9 credits of upper level electives, plus the 6 credit 2-semester thesis.

4. **Are there other requirements for program completion?**

Graduate students should consult the Graduate Catalog for a more in-depth description of general policies, procedures, and requirements for Graduate Students.

You should apply as soon as possible for a Substitute Teaching License. The Practica and Student Teaching require this and the shorter clinical experiences require that you at minimum have been fingerprinted for a criminal clearance.

All programs require that you meet the "Health and Hygiene" state requirement before student teaching. This can be satisfied through courses in biology, nutrition, health and wellness, and others. It can also be satisfied through the taking of a brief test in our offices. Your application will be audited for evidence of having met this requirement, and you will be asked to fulfill it before you student teach. You must also take a "speech and Hearing" screening during your first semester in the program. This screening is currently at no cost and done through the campus speech and hearing clinic. See http://www.wpunj.edu/coe/departments/cert/assessments.dot for assessment dates and times.

K-6, K-6/5-8 and K-6 TSD all require a course in Child or Developmental Psychology. K-6/5-8 requires in addition a course in Adolescent Psychology. These courses can be taken at a 2 year or a four year college. Note that the William Paterson University Developmental Psychology course (PSYC 2100) is approved as encompassing both developmental and adolescent psychology.

Where do I go with more questions or for advisement?

K-6, K-6/5-8, and MAT Programs: Dr. Julie Rosenthal, rosenthalj@wpunj.edu , 1600 Valley Road in Wayne, office # 4096. K-6 TSD, Dr. Chris Mulrine, mulrinec@wpunj.edu; K-12 and MAT in Math and Science, Dr. Fallace, fallacet@wpunj.edu