

## **Tips for Transfers with AA/AS Degrees, Early Childhood and Elementary Education Majors, Revised August 2014**

- **Make sure that you have the prerequisite courses:**
  - Anthropology 2020: Diversity and Equity in Schools (or approved equivalent from the community college)
  - Psychology 2100: Developmental Psychology (Psychology 1100 is required to take this)
  - Two college-level math courses (usually Math 1100 or 1090, and 1110 or higher; basic math does not count)
  - Two college science courses, including at least one lab science
  - Two history courses, including at least one American history course
- **Make sure you have the courses required for graduation:**
  - Six credits of foreign language
- **Identify your second major (a liberal arts or sciences area) and take courses right away that meet the requirements for this major. You will want to finish most of the second major courses before your last two semesters at WPU.**
- **Your last two semesters at WPU should be focused almost entirely on your education courses.**
- **Become familiar with these important websites:**
  - College of Education--<http://cms.wpunj.edu/coe/>
  - Department of Elementary and Early Childhood Education--  
<http://cms.wpunj.edu/coe/departments/elem/>
  - Office of Educational Enrollment and Certification--  
<http://cms.wpunj.edu/coe/departments/cert/>
  - Office of Field Experiences--<http://cms.wpunj.edu/coe/departments/field/>
- **Complete the required assessments before you can be matriculated in the education major. As of September 2014, incoming students must pass the CORE Academic Skills for Educators Praxis tests (#5751) in reading, writing and mathematics before taking any education courses. Register for the tests at the Educational Testing Services website, [www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org). Speech and hearing assessments are also required. Information is on the Office of Educational Enrollment and Certification website listed above.**
- **Entering students as of the fall of 2014 will need a 3.0 cumulative grade point average at William Paterson University before taking any education courses and must maintain at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA at WPU. (You will need *at least a C in ANTH 2020, PSY 2100, and all education courses*, and a *B average in your education courses* before**

student teaching.) The state will require a 3.0 cumulative GPA for certification, beginning with the fall of 2016.

- Meet with your education advisor as soon as he or she is assigned. You will need to plan when you will do your field placements so that you can submit your applications for the practicum and student teaching semesters (due a year in advance).
- You will need to take and pass all the appropriate Praxis II exam(s) before student teaching. If you are an elementary education major (or an early childhood dual major), you should sign up during your first semester of education courses for the Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects Praxis II (#5001) through [www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org). Practice tests are available on-line in Cheng Library. If you are getting the 5-8 endorsement, take the middle school content area Praxis II as soon as you have completed most of your second major. If you are an early childhood major, take the early childhood content knowledge Praxis II (#5022) in your second semester of the education sequence. The Office of Educational Enrollment and Certification website has information about the Praxis II tests and passing scores. Official passing scores must be received by the Office of Educational Enrollment and Certification by August 1<sup>st</sup> for fall student teaching, and by January 1<sup>st</sup> for spring student teaching. Note that it takes several weeks for the university to get official scores from ETS. Plan accordingly since there are no exceptions to these timelines. For your scores to be reported appropriately, you must use codes 2518 for WPU and R7666 for the New Jersey Department of Education. Be sure to use your social security number when registering for the Praxis exams and make sure to print and save your scores once they become available on-line through ETS.
- As soon as you have 60 credits, apply for a substitute license. You will need one by the second semester of your education courses. This will require you to be fingerprinted and to have a Mantoux test for tuberculosis. You can apply through your local school district or through the Passaic Educational Services Commission. The Office of Field Experiences has information on this.
- Use your campus email exclusively in communicating with University faculty and staff. Read your campus email regularly for important information and reminders from faculty and staff.

If you have any questions, feel free to email Dr. Linnea Weiland, Department Chair, Early Childhood and Elementary Education, [weilandl@wpunj.edu](mailto:weilandl@wpunj.edu).