Professional Education Concentration Requirements

The Professional Education Concentration leads to a North Carolina Birth-Kindergarten teaching license. The issuance of a teaching license by the North Carolina Department of Public Instructions (NCDPI) requires that the College of Education and Allied Professionals at Western Carolina University abide by the regulations set forth by NCDPI. In order to pursue the Professional Education Concentration, you must meet the Admission Criteria for the Teacher Education Program. A checklist which includes the Admission Criteria for the Teacher Education Program is included in the Professional Education Folder on the BK Support Site in Black Board. Please do not submit an Application to the Teacher Education Program until the criteria numbered 1-7 in that document are met.

During the semester you are enrolled in BK 250, you will need to do the following in order to declared the Professional Education Concentration (you will not be able to be in this concentration until all of the steps are completed):

- Take the Reading, Writing, and Mathematics Praxis I Core tests, and pass with a combined score of at least 468;
- Complete the Diversity Survey in TaskStream;
- Complete the M5 Personality Survey in TaskStream;
- Attach signed Professional Dispositions Contract to Teacher Education Application when you submit.

If you are interested in pursuing the Professional Education Concentration, you should be admitted to Teacher Education Program and all of the steps above must be completed before you advisor can request the Professional Education Concentration for you.

If you choose the Professional Education Concentration, please be aware that you will not be allowed to take courses in the Professional Education Concentration until you are admitted to the Teacher Education Program. Those courses are:

- BK 312 – Kindergarten Curriculum
- BK 316 – Mathematics and Science
- BK 473 – Early Childhood Assessment of Responsive Instruction
- BKSE 313 – Assessment of the Young Child
- BKSE 350 - Early Childhood Disorders and Interventions
- BKSE 412 – Interagency Planning
- BKSE 427 – Teaching Reading to Individuals with Mild to Moderate Disabilities
- BK 482 – Internship I
- BK 483 – Internship II
- BK 496 – Internship Seminar

Please keep in mind in every course you will have a field experience component. In some courses, you may be asked to observe or work with a child that is not in your own classroom or place of employment.

During the semester you are enrolled in BK 312-Kindergarten Curriculum, you will be required to spend time in a NC public school kindergarten classroom. Please make arrangements with your employer prior to the start of that semester, so that you will be available for your Kindergarten Curriculum lab experiences.
**Internships**

In the Professional Education Concentration, 2 semesters of Internship are required. These Internships are to be taken at the end of your course of study. In order to be eligible for Internship, the following must be completed:

- All of your General Education Core or the WCU Liberal Studies requirements will need to be completed before you can apply for an Internship. If you are completing the General Education Core at a community college, WCU must have documentation of completion prior to approving your Application for Internship. **Your WCU degree audit must indicate that the Liberal Studies requirements are either “met” or “waived” prior to receiving overrides for an Internship.** Please keep in mind that it can take the local community college as well as WCU some time to get this information in the system, so please take this into account.

  - This information can be sent to the following address (Please do not send it to the Admissions Office at WCU, it could get lost):
    University Registrar’s Office
    206 Killian Annex
    Cullowhee, NC 28723
    Attention: Laura Mallonee

- You cannot take Internship I and Internship II in the same semester. They are to be taken consecutively. Internship I requires 2 full days in an approved placement site. Internship II requires 5 full days in an approved placement site.

- You may take a full load of coursework at WCU during the same semester when you are enrolled in Internship I. You may not take any additional WCU coursework when enrolled in Internship II.

There are also expectations regarding your Internship placement site. Approved Internship Placement Sites include:

- Public school kindergarten classrooms,
- Public school preschool classrooms,
- More at Four classrooms,
- Head Start preschool classrooms.

During Internship II, you will take the Praxis II. In order to be considered “highly qualified” in NC, a licensed teacher must pass the Praxis II in their specific category of licensure. **You will need to take test 5025 for Praxis II.**