

Greetings,

We are excited that you are interested in continuing your education with the College of Education and Allied Professions (CEAP) through the Teacher Assistant Reimbursement Program. Education programs at WCU include:

- Birth-Kindergarten Education
- Elementary Education (K-6)
- Inclusive Education (K-6 and K-12 Special Education General Curriculum)
- Middle Grades Education (Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, or Math in grades 6-9)
- Secondary Education (English, Comprehensive Science, Social Sciences, or Math in grades 9-12)
- Health and Physical Education (K-12)
- Music Education (K-12)
- Art Education (K-12)

In the CEAP, we want to support you every step of the way from your inquiry phase through graduation and into your first years of teaching. To that end, we would like to invite you to make an appointment to meet with an academic advisor as you are beginning to think about moving forward on this new journey. Our professional advisors will sit down with you to learn about your goals for the future and to help create an individualized plan of study based on your prior coursework. To give you a clear picture of next steps on the path to graduation and licensure, during this meeting we will answer questions and provide information about:

- Program options
- Teacher Education Program (TEP) requirements including GPA, background checks, and the Praxis Core Exam
- Course sequencing and requirements
- Field experience requirements
- Student Teaching/Internships
- TK20 electronic portfolio
- Licensure

To schedule your advising appointment, please contact the Suite 201 Student Success Center at 828.227.7027. We know that the decision to invest the time, energy, and financial resources into continuing your education is an important one with many considerations. We want to be sure that you have all the information you need to make the best decision for you and your family. We look forward to hearing from you soon and to working with you to achieve your goals of becoming a teacher.

Sincerely,

*Patricia Bricker*

Patricia Bricker, Ed.D.  
Associate Dean, College of Education and Allied Professions

## TA to Teacher Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: I want to transfer into a teacher education program at WCU. How do I get started?**

**A:** The best place to start getting your questions answered about becoming a teacher is the Suite 201 Student Success Center. We have professional advisors on staff who can answer questions about everything from the admissions process to program requirements to licensure. We can evaluate your transfer coursework and develop an individualized plan for program completion.

**Q: What is the Praxis exam?**

**A:** The North Carolina State Board of Education (SBE) requires undergraduate degree-seeking teacher candidates to satisfactorily complete the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators Tests, referred to as **Praxis Core**, which measure critical thinking and academic skills in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. The tests were designed to provide comprehensive assessments that measure the skills and content knowledge of candidates entering teacher preparation programs.

**Q: When do I take the Praxis Core and will WCU help me prepare?**

**A:** The Praxis Core is typically taken in same semester that student take their first education (EDCI 201 or BK 250). Suite 201 has compiled a wealth of Praxis Core prep resources for students at [edtestprep.wcu.edu](http://edtestprep.wcu.edu). We highly recommend taking advantage of these opportunities along with our Praxis Core Math workshop series.

**Q: How long will it take me to finish a bachelor's degree program?**

**A:** Time to degree depends on the program, transfer coursework articulation, and how many courses you able to take each semester. Your Suite 201 advisor will help you put together a graduation plan and will evaluate it with you each semester to be sure you stay on track. Your advisor will also be able to let you know how the coursework from your associate's degree will transfer into your program and how many courses you have remaining. The average time to completion for a fulltime student is 5 to 6 semesters.

**Q: Can I take my all my classes online or in the evenings?**

**A:** Our Birth-Kindergarten program is the only undergraduate education program that is offered completely online. The vast majority of our courses are offered in a face-to-face format during the day with only a select number offered in the evening hours.

**Q: Is there a difference between an AA, AS, and AAS degree when it comes to transfer credit?**

**A:** Yes. An AA or AS degree from a North Carolina community college will waive all of WCU's 42-hour liberal studies (general education) program requirements. An AAS degree is typically more focused on a specialty than it is on general education, so those students will usually have additional liberal studies courses to complete at WCU.

**Q: What is edTPA?**

**A:** edTPA is a performance-based, subject-specific assessment and support system used by teacher preparation programs throughout the United States to emphasize, measure and support the skills and knowledge that all teachers need from Day 1 in the classroom. Aspiring teachers must prepare a portfolio of materials during their student teaching clinical experience. edTPA requires aspiring teachers to demonstrate readiness to teach through lesson plans designed to support their students' strengths and needs; engage real students in ambitious learning; analyze whether their students are learning, and adjust their instruction to become more effective.

All candidates pursuing an initial license must submit an edTPA portfolio and pass the evaluation. The initial or first submission of the portfolio must be to Pearson for national scoring. If the portfolio does not pass and must be revised, it must be resubmitted to Pearson. Candidates may elect to resubmit only some individual tasks or the entire portfolio.

**Q: Who can I talk to if I have further questions?**

**A:** Please contact the Suite 201 Student Success Center to make an appointment with the professional advisor for your program of interest by calling 828.227.7027.

## TA to Teachers Helpful Links

### WCU

**Admissions:** <https://www.wcu.edu/apply/undergraduate-admissions/>

**CAA Major Pathway Baccalaureate Plans (AA/AS degree to BSEd plans):** <https://www.wcu.edu/apply/undergraduate-admissions/transfer-students/agreements-with-other-schools/cca-four-year-plans.aspx>

**Credits Earned Elsewhere (Transfer Credit Articulation):** <https://www.wcu.edu/learn/academic-services/registrar-office/credits-earned-elsewhere/index.aspx>

**Financial Aid:** <https://www.wcu.edu/apply/financial-aid/index.aspx>

### College of Education and Allied Professions

**College of Education and Allied Professions:** <https://www.wcu.edu/apply/financial-aid/index.aspx>

**School of Teaching and Learning:** <https://www.wcu.edu/learn/departments-schools-colleges/ceap/stl/index.aspx>

**Suite 201 Student Success Center:** <https://www.wcu.edu/learn/departments-schools-colleges/ceap/suite-201/>

- **Admission to Teacher Education:** <https://www.wcu.edu/learn/departments-schools-colleges/ceap/stl/admission-to-teacher-education.aspx>
- **Licensure:** <https://www.wcu.edu/learn/departments-schools-colleges/ceap/suite-201/teacher-and-school-professional-licensure/Licensure-Exam-Preparation.aspx>
- **Office of Field Experience:** <https://www.wcu.edu/learn/departments-schools-colleges/ceap/suite-201/office-of-field-experiences-ofe/>
- **Praxis Core Preparation Resources:**
  - **Testing Requirements:** <https://www.wcu.edu/learn/departments-schools-colleges/ceap/stl/praxis-core.aspx>
  - **Test Preparation Resources:** <https://www.wcu.edu/learn/departments-schools-colleges/ceap/suite-201/teacher-and-school-professional-licensure/Licensure-Exam-Preparation.aspx>
  - **Testing Center at WCU:** <https://www.wcu.edu/engage/professional-enrichment/testing-center/>
  - **Educational Testing Service:** [www.ets.org/praxis](http://www.ets.org/praxis)