

VIRGINIA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

D. HENRY WATTS SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Fully accredited by the Virginia Board of Education, the Teacher Education Program at Virginia Wesleyan University is known for preparing enthusiastic, well-trained, and highly effective classroom teachers who consistently strive to meet the diverse and ever-changing learning needs of all students. Through data-informed reflection and response, education faculty advocate a perspective that values continuous improvement and lifelong learning for all faculty, educators, and students.

THE PROGRAM

The Teacher Education Program offers three undergraduate majors leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree: Elementary Education (PreK-6), Special Education (K-12), and Education Studies (non-licensure). The Program also offers a 4+1 education master's degree for aspiring teachers hoping to teach in one of 13 different content areas and an online master's degree in teacher leadership for practicing teachers. For more information about any of these degrees, please visit the VWU Teacher Education website.

THE MAJOR

The Education Studies major is for students who are interested in teaching, but do not desire a Virginia teaching license. Students pursuing this major enjoy small class sizes, a broad-based liberal arts curriculum, and the opportunity to experience diverse teaching contexts. VWU offers education studies candidates an incredible context to learn about teaching. With an on-campus PreK-12 lab school, Tidewater Collegiate Academy, VWU education studies candidates will have their first teaching experience in their first year. Practical teaching experiences grow in intensity and duration throughout their academic journey. Candidates accumulate experience in multiple, diverse teaching contexts and will graduate with broad-based content knowledge and the ability to implement effective teaching strategies with students of varied age levels and abilities.

THE COURSES

Courses within the Education Studies major address content related to developmental psychology, foundations of education, classroom management, curriculum, instruction, and assessment, with crosscutting themes of educational technology and culturally responsive teaching. The courses provide multiple opportunities to observe/practice what is learned on and off campus within diverse educational contexts.

INTERSHIPS/RESEARCH

Education Studies candidates take part in multiple field experiences tied to coursework starting in their first year. Field experiences increase in intensity as candidates move through the major. Although no formal semester-long internship or research experience is required for this major, advisers can provide multiple options for candidates upon request. Internship options could include but are not limited to working at our on-campus lab school, tutoring for the AVID program, or serving as a teaching assistant at a partner private school.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

VWU boasts many close partnerships with educational organizations and school districts which offer unpaid and paid teaching opportunities on and off campus while pursuing the major. Innovative grant-funded programs and study away opportunities also provide learning experiences beyond the classroom.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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