

## 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 effective and qualified classroom teachers.*

*Leveraging our on-campus K-12 laboratory school, Tidewater Collegiate Academy, our students begin observation and fieldwork in their first year at VWU. The program's unique design combines rigorous coursework with diverse and authentic teaching experiences both on and off campus.*

#### THE PROGRAM

VWU students interested in teaching in either elementary or special education are urged to apply to the Teacher Education Program as soon as possible.

*Program admission requirements include:*

- *Passing scores on Praxis Core Math Assessment (or SAT equivalent)*
- *Passing scores on Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment*
- *Acceptable ratings on VWU Teacher Education Dispositional Assessment*
- *Cumulative GPA of 2.8 or greater*
- *Successfully complete required pre-admission courses*

Upon admission, students enroll in upper-level education courses which provide a balance of coursework and teaching experience. Students who successfully complete the program are recommended for Virginia Teaching Certification and position themselves well for employment. In recent years, all VWU students in the Education Program have signed employment contracts during or soon after completing their student teaching experience.

#### THE MAJOR

Students seeking licensure with endorsement in Elementary (preK-6) or Special Education: General Curriculum (K-12) complete a major that reflects the interdisciplinary and interdependent nature of the liberal arts. The Comprehensive Liberal Studies: Curricular Emphasis (CLS:CE)

major allows teaching candidates in the above areas to pursue studies in the University's four academic schools while meeting state and national teacher education regulations and standards.

#### THE COURSES

Coursework in the Comprehensive Liberal Studies: Curriculum Emphasis major provides students initial teaching experience and a broad foundation of cross-disciplinary content knowledge and skills. After acceptance into the Education Program, students take an increasing amount of Education Program coursework relating pedagogical theory to core content knowledge and skills while providing opportunities to apply what they have learned in diverse teaching contexts.

#### INTERNSHIPS/UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

The coursework provides VWU students multiple diverse teaching contexts which average over 400 hours of teaching experience before VWU students graduate. Innovative internship opportunities include but are not limited to student teaching abroad, instructing campers at Y Camp Red-Feather, and teaching for grant-funded K-12 VWU summer programs.

#### BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Education students have multiple opportunities to learn about or share their passion for teaching. Presenting at professional conferences, volunteering at partner schools, volunteering to assist with K-12 field trips on our campus, and membership in the Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society are just a few opportunities for students hoping to become teacher leaders.

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#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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##### Sandra Ewell

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Fully accredited by the Virginia Board of Education, the Teacher Education Program at Virginia Wesleyan University is known for preparing effective and qualified classroom teachers. VWU offers 13 different content tracks that lead to Virginia teaching certification in either grades 6-12 or preK-12. Designed as a 4+1 route to initial licensure, the MAEd Program allows students to earn both a baccalaureate degree and a master's degree in only five years!

#### THE PROGRAM

Students interested in pursuing an MAEd at VWU are urged to apply to the MAEd Program by their Junior year.

MAEd admission requirements include:

- Passing scores on Praxis Core Math Assessment (or SAT equivalent)
- Passing scores on Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment
- Bachelor's degree with a cumulative GPA of 2.8 or greater

Upon admission, students enroll in graduate-level education courses which provide a balance of coursework and field experience. Students who successfully complete the program earn a master's degree, are recommended for Virginia Teaching Certification, and position themselves nicely for employment. In recent years, all VWU students in the Education Program have signed employment contracts during or soon after completing their supervised internship experience.

#### THE MAJOR

Although several majors can lead to a Master of Arts in Education, it is important for students to confer with their academic advisers regarding specific coursework required of aspiring teachers.

Majors that can lead to MAEd are as follows:

##### Secondary Endorsement Areas (6-12)

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Earth Science
- Mathematics
- English
- History and Social Sciences

##### PreK-12 Endorsement Areas

- French
- German
- Spanish
- Latin
- Music: Vocal/Choral
- Theatre Arts
- Visual Arts

#### THE COURSES

Coursework in the undergraduate content major provides students in-depth and expansive knowledge and related skills needed to teach in their chosen content area. After acceptance into the MAEd, coursework provides students knowledge of pedagogical theory and effective teaching strategies to teach in their content area. The yearlong MAEd incorporates practical teaching experiences to apply learning in diverse teaching contexts.

#### INTERNSHIPS/UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

The 4+1 MAEd program provides undergraduate students the time to study abroad and/or pursue undergraduate research opportunities in their field. Students admitted to the MAEd program average over 300 hours of supervised experiences in multiple diverse teaching contexts. Innovative internship opportunities include but are not limited to student teaching abroad, instructing campers at Tidewater Collegiate Academy, and teaching for grant-funded K-12 VWU summer programs.

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