

VIRGINIA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

BIRDSONG SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

Educators require a broad knowledge that involves the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development of students. The use of this knowledge guides learning experiences and enables meaningful relationships with students. Successful educators are able to consider the social and individual differences that affect interactions in an academic environment including developmental disabilities, attention deficit disorders, gifted education, substance abuse, child abuse, and family disruptions.

THE PROGRAM

Virginia Wesleyan University is known for excellence in preparing classroom-ready teachers of good character who are ready to teach boldly and advance the cause of education and lifelong learning locally and globally. Unique features of the program include a rigorous liberal arts education, 15 licensure endorsement programs approved by the Virginia Board of Education, early and multiple field experiences, and career assistance. The Education Program is reviewed periodically by the Virginia Department of Education and approved by the Virginia Board of Education. All programs fulfill the curricular requirements detailed in the Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia. Students interested in becoming teachers must formally apply for admission to the education program following their admission to VWU, and are urged to do so by their sophomore year.

THE MAJOR

Students pursuing elementary or special education: general curriculum K-12 will complete the comprehensive liberal studies major along with required professional education courses. Students pursuing secondary grades or preK-12 licensure will complete the VBOE-approved version of the academic major within their chosen discipline along with the required general studies courses and professional education courses. Students must have a 2.8 GPA overall at the time of application and pass the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators tests to be admitted. Once admitted, candidates must maintain a 2.8 GPA overall and the required GPA for their major, and pass all

required licensure assessments prior to established deadlines for requesting placements for student teaching. Upon successful completion of the program, candidates are eligible for licensure in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

THE COURSES

Classes at Virginia Wesleyan are typically small and interactive. Education Program courses include, but are not limited to, the study of the foundations of education and special education, literacy, assessment, appropriate behavioral and pedagogical approaches, and human development.

INTERNSHIPS/UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Candidates for licensure complete multiple field experiences in diverse settings related to professional coursework prior to the culminating student-teaching semester. Pre-service Teaching, or student teaching, is a full time, 300+ hour experience that includes 150+ hours of direct classroom teaching in the endorsement area being sought. During this experience, all candidates are required to complete an impact study of their teaching effectiveness. Successful completion of pre-service teaching and the impact study are required for recommendation for licensure.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

All 15 endorsement programs prepare the successful candidate for licensure with an endorsement in their chosen discipline. Career assistance is provided to all successful candidates both in the education department and through the career development and Internship program.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. B. Malcolm Lively

Associate Professor of Education and
Director of the Education Program
blively@vwu.edu

Sandra Ewell

sewell@vwu.edu

