

Wachovia Partnership East Frequently Asked Questions

Note: Many questions may be answered by reviewing the information and documents located on the ECU College of Education Wachovia Partnership East website at: <http://www.ecu.edu/wpe>

What is Wachovia Partnership East?

The East Carolina University College of Education, with the support of the Wachovia Foundation, has established Wachovia Partnership East. Through collaboration and innovation, the partnership focuses on preparing teachers who will help meet the demand for well-trained professionals in the classrooms of North Carolina and beyond. Wachovia Partnership East provides degree completion programs in elementary education, special education and middle grades education. Participants must complete a portion of their studies at a North Carolina community college prior to enrolling in Wachovia Partnership East.

Coordinator Information

How do I determine which Wachovia Partnership East Coordinator to contact?

If you are located in the following counties:

Carteret, Craven, Pamlico, Jones, Onslow

Contact Ms. Anne Faulkenberry at (252) 638-6492 or faulkena@cravencc.edu

Edgecombe, Franklin, Granville, Halifax, Nash, Northampton, Vance, Wake, Warren, Wilson

Contact Ms. Kathy Bradley at (252) 451-8212 or bradleyk@ecu.edu

Duplin, Cumberland, Greene, Harnett, Johnston, Lenoir, Sampson, Wayne

Contact Dr. Debbie Grady at (919) 735-5151 ext. 385 or gradyde@waynecc.edu

Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Hyde, Martin, Tyrrell, Washington

Contact Dr. Linda Woolard, Virtual Consortium Coordinator at woolardlin@ecu.edu

If you are located in any other county in North Carolina

Contact Dr. Linda Woolard, Virtual Consortium Coordinator at woolardlin@ecu.edu

When should I meet with a WPE coordinator?

You should meet with a WPE coordinator as soon as you have decided to pursue a degree in teacher education or even before you have made a final decision. The earlier you are advised, the more likely you will enroll in the required general education courses at the community colleges. Your freshman year is not too early to meet with the coordinator for the first time.

Will I need to drive to the hub site to talk to the WPE coordinator?

You may choose to meet with the WPE coordinator at the hub site. However, the coordinators all visit their partnering institutions on a regular basis to advise students.

Courses at Community Colleges**What courses should I take at the community college?**

There are articulation agreements and checklists for each program area (elementary, special education, and middle grades) which list the courses you would need to complete at the community college. Most of the courses are considered general education or foundation courses. Articulation agreements and checklists are located on the WPE website.

<http://www.ecu.edu/wpe>

What if I took courses on the old community college quarter system?

Courses taken at the community college on the quarter system may or may not transfer. A WPE coordinator would need to review your transcripts to advise you on which courses may transfer to ECU.

What happens if I have been enrolled in the community college but have not been enrolled in a college transfer program?

The WPE coordinator will be glad to meet with you to evaluate course work to determine if any of the courses taken in programs other than college transfer will transfer to the university. Transcripts will need to be brought to the advising appointment with the WPE coordinator.

If I have a D in a course, will it transfer?

ECU only gives transfer credit for grades of C or higher on transfer courses.

Courses with WPE**When do WPE classes meet?**

WPE classes are always offered in the evening or online. There are no day classes with WPE. Classes that meet face to face will be held at the community college hub sites. There may be requirements for daytime observations or teaching experiences of 12 to 24 hours per semester in a public school. Participants in Virtual Consortium cohorts will receive instruction 100% online but are required to attend one annual face to face meeting at East Carolina University.

Where will my practicum or field work take place?

All clinical placements are facilitated by the Office of Clinical Experiences. You will be asked to request a school system and public school in your local area where you would like to be placed for your field work. ECU tries to place you in the county in which you live. If this is not possible, you will be placed in the next most convenient area to your home. School district personnel determine policies for placing teacher assistants in their

counties. The policy for teacher assistants during the Senior Year internship can be found at: <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-educ/teached/InternForms.cfm> .

May I attend WPE full-time?

All degree programs offered through WPE are part-time. WPE students normally are enrolled in 2 to 3 courses each semester. Students desiring to complete their degree as a full-time student need to enroll at ECU in the on-campus programs

Admission Criteria for WPE

What are the criteria for admission into WPE?

- Minimum 2.5 GPA (grade point average)
- Praxis I scores within 5 points of passing each section or within 5 points of the composite score requirement, equivalent ACT scores, or equivalent SAT scores (score information located on WPE website).
- General education courses completed (see articulation agreements).
- Interview with a WPE coordinator
- Students must meet university requirements for admission.
- Students must be admitted to ECU.
- Candidates who are employees from partnering districts and/or students from partnering community colleges are given priority for enrollment.

What are the passing scores required on the Praxis I tests?

Praxis I passing scores are 173 PPST Math, 173 PPST Writing, and 176 PPST Reading or a composite score of 522.

What are the equivalent SAT and ACT scores needed to meet Praxis I requirements?

In lieu of Praxis I, students may submit a composite score on ACT of 24 or SAT of 1100. **OR** An SAT score of 550 on math or ACT score of 24 on math will meet the Praxis I requirement for math and/or an SAT score of 550 on verbal or an ACT score of 24 on verbal will meet the Praxis I score for reading and writing. You may use passing scores from different tests. (Ex. SAT 550 and PPST Math 173).

What if my GPA is lower than 2.5 at the community college?

A minimum 2.5 GPA is required to enter teacher education. The university requires a 2.5 to be accepted into the university. You would need to meet the College of Education requirement of a minimum 2.5 GPA to enroll in WPE course work. A WPE coordinator may advise you on strategies to raise your community college GPA.

Terminology

What is Praxis I?

Praxis I is a series of 3 tests (PPST Reading, PPST Writing, PPST Math) that are required for all students in North Carolina who wish to enter a teacher education program. In order to take the upper level classes in the College of Education the state requires that all students pass Praxis I. The test is designed to insure that a student is able to read, write, and solve mathematical problems on a college level. Information about Praxis I may be found at www.ets.org/praxis .

What is a hub site?

Wachovia Partnership East is organized in regional partnerships or consortia made up of the public schools and community colleges in several counties. Each consortium has a central location at a community college where students meet to attend the face to face ECU classes in the evenings. A map showing the areas (consortia) is located on the website.

What is a cohort?

East Carolina delivers each Wachovia Partnership East program through a cohort model. A cohort is a group of students who begin the ECU program at the same time, take all the classes together in a planned sequence, and graduate at the same time. Examples of cohort schedules may be found on the website.

What is meant by a blended or mixed delivery cohort model?

When a group of students travel through a program together as a cohort they may take classes totally online, totally in class at a hub site, or the class may include some online course work and some face to face sessions. When a course is blended or the delivery is mixed, part of the class will be online and there will be some face to face class sessions with the instructor.

Financial Aid for WPE Students

Is there any financial aid for the programs offered through ECU WPE?

Financial aid varies depending on the students' economic situation, the student's employment status, and scholarship funds that may vary from year to year. All students must complete a FAFSA to be considered for ECU financial aid. The forms may be completed at www.fafsa.org .

If I am a school employee, is there any financial assistance available to help pay for my tuition and books?

There may be funding available for school employees. School district employees should check with the Human Resources Department in their district to determine if local funds are available.

How much does it cost to take classes during the Wachovia Partnership East Program?

Cost varies due to legislation. WPE students are charged distance education tuition rates and pay an hourly technology fee. Current rates may be found on the ECU distance education website. <http://www.ecu.edu/options/> Click on the question, “How much does it cost?”

Lateral Entry, Licensure, Already Hold 4-year Degree

What if I already have a four-year degree?

Wachovia Partnership East does not serve second-degree students. East Carolina University’s College of Education offers a wide variety of alternative licensure programs. For information on alternative licensure through East Carolina, visit www.ecu.edu/cs-educ/alternative_licensure/index.cfm.

Technology Issues

Is it mandatory to have Internet connections at my home to participate in WPE?

If you plan to attend the Virtual Consortium, you must have access to Internet service and a computer that meets minimum technology specifications. Please read the “Virtual Insert” found on the website for more information about technical specifications and other requirements for Virtual Consortium applicants.

If you attend the WPE mixed delivery hub site programs, you may access computers at your local community colleges or local library. However, it will be more convenient if you have Internet access at home since many courses are offered online through the hub sites.

Programs Offered

What if I am not sure which teaching program or grade levels I prefer?

If you are unsure about which teaching program or area to enroll, then it is advised that you call several local schools in your area and observe classes. This will help provide you with some insight into what is required of teachers in each area or grade level.

Which teaching degree completion programs are offered through WPE?

Special Education, Elementary Education, and Middle Grades Education which requires the selection of one of these concentration options: Language Arts/Math, Language Arts/Science or Math/Science.

Are there education degrees offered through Wachovia Partnership East that will license a graduate to teach high school content?

No, there is not a degree being offered in secondary education at this time. If you plan to pursue a secondary education degree (high school teaching), you will need to attend classes in Greenville. Some courses may be available online but are often filled by seniors and graduate students.

General Information

Do I have to obtain official transcripts to enroll in WPE?

You may use unofficial transcripts for your advising conference with the WPE coordinator. However, when you apply to ECU, Admissions requires the official transcripts from every college or university attended. Students may be required to provide high school transcripts as well when applying to ECU.

If I enroll in WPE, will I ever need to go on campus in Greenville?

Most students will not be required to attend on campus courses or events except for the Senior II seminar. Those who are in the Virtual Consortium must attend one face to face meeting each year which may be held on the Greenville campus at ECU or some other location in the state. However, WPE students are considered ECU students and may choose to use some of the resources on campus, such as the library. WPE students may order textbooks online and have them mailed to their homes. It is strongly encouraged that WPE students attend graduation at ECU, which is held on campus in Greenville.

How will I access books and materials from the ECU library?

Each WPE hub site maintains a Teacher Resource Center where students may check out materials and books. In addition, WPE students, through the InterLoan Library system, may check out many books and materials from ECU library and other colleges and universities. Through the InterLoan Library system, books and materials may be mailed to the students' homes or local community college libraries for students to check out. The K-6 Textbook Collection which includes teacher editions of each adopted text in grades K-6 for the subjects of Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies is available as a reserved Interlibrary Loan collection exclusively for WPE students.