

Steps for Preparing to Complete an ECU Teaching Degree Through Wachovia Partnership East (WPE)

The following steps are to provide a general startup guide for NC Community College students who wish to earn bachelor's degrees in Elementary Education, Special Education- General Curriculum, or Middle Grades Education through East Carolina University's (ECU) Wachovia Partnership East (WPE) degree completion model. This degree completion partnership is designed specifically for students that transition from a North Carolina community college. All interested students should contact a WPE Coordinator for more detailed information about the process, admission requirements, and degree program information.

1. Apply to a NC Community College*

If you are already enrolled in a NC community college, skip to Step 2.

Contact your North Carolina community college to complete the application process for enrollment. Most community college applications require that you have transcripts sent to the college and that you take placement tests prior to registering for classes. You can find out about the process by looking for community college admissions information online, calling the community college admissions office, or visiting the community college. Wachovia Partnership East students should request community college advisors from the **college transfer associate degree programs**.

2. Apply for Financial Aid

If you do not need financial aid, skip to step 3.

The first step in locating financial aid to assist with your college expenses is to complete a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form. You can access these forms at: www.fafsa.ed.gov. Assistance with completing the form is available at 1-800-433-3243 and through community college financial aid offices.

If you are an employee of a public school district, check to see if your district partners with the North Carolina Model Teacher Education Consortium (NCMTEC) and contact the advisor for your district to find out about additional financial support. <http://ncmttec.northcarolina.edu/>

3. Register for community college courses

Prospective WPE students should take courses in the college transfer degree programs. It is recommended that you begin with ENG 111, MAT 141 or MAT 161 or MAT 171, and PSY 150 if possible. If you need developmental courses (i.e. 070, 080, etc.) you must take those first. Checklists of other options for Wachovia Partnership East students can be found on the WPE website: <http://www.ecu.edu/wpe>. If you are working toward an associate degree, be sure to choose courses that apply to the WPE prerequisite checklist **and** the associate degree of choice.

4. Schedule an appointment with a Wachovia Partnership East Coordinator.

Wachovia Partnership East Coordinators are assigned to every county in North Carolina. The WPE Coordinator can help you determine what courses are required for your area of interest and assist you in developing a plan of study. Schedule this meeting as early as possible in your college career. If you have completed any college coursework, bring copies of your transcripts to the coordinator for your initial meeting. If you are unsure of who to contact, a map of geographic regions is located on the WPE website: <http://www.ecu.edu/wpe> .

5. Take the Praxis I in reading, writing, and math.

Praxis I test scores are required for admittance into WPE. You should take the tests after completing English and math courses at the community college if possible. You should plan to take Praxis I no later than one semester before applying to WPE (example: Applications for fall cohorts are due in February, so students should take Praxis I no later than the fall prior to applications being due). If you have taken SAT or ACT, check with a WPE Coordinator to see if Praxis I is required for you. Wachovia Partnership East Coordinators have additional information about studying and registering for Praxis I.

6. Apply to Wachovia Partnership East

After completing the majority of community college prerequisite coursework and taking Praxis I, and meeting the requirements below, you should apply to WPE. Application deadlines for WPE cohorts are posted on the website: <http://www.ecu.edu/wpe>. Applications are usually due in February for fall cohorts.

Requirements for Admission to WPE:

- Completion of prerequisite coursework listed on degree checklists
- G.P.A. of 2.5 or higher in all coursework
- Passing Praxis I scores (must be within 5 points of passing when applications are submitted)
- Conference with a Wachovia Partnership East Coordinator
- Eligibility for admission to East Carolina University (<http://www.ecu.edu/admissions/>)

7. Apply for admission to East Carolina University

In order to take courses through WPE, students must be enrolled in ECU. Applications for freshman/transfer students may be downloaded at <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-ecu/futurestudents.cfm>.

8. Apply for financial aid as an ECU student

See step 2 for directions.

Once you begin your coursework at ECU, you will need to list ECU as the institution on the FAFSA. If you will dually enroll in ECU and a community college, you may count hours for both institutions toward total enrollment hours. ECU's Financial Aid Office will work with you to distribute your funds to community colleges when you are dually enrolled.

*Students must enroll in and complete coursework at a North Carolina community college to be eligible for Wachovia Partnership East. WPE serves students seeking their first four-year degree only. Candidates who have already completed bachelor's degrees should contact ECU about other alternatives for teacher licensure.

Information provided in this document is subject to change.