Is it time for a new direction?

How can I advance in my career?

Can I afford to go back to school?

Westfield State is conveniently located just minutes from the Massachusetts Turnpike, Exit 3, five miles from Route 91. We are also easy to access from Springfield and points east on Route 20; from Connecticut and points south on Route 202; from Amherst and points north on Route 91; and are only half an hour from the Berkshires at Exit 2 on the Massachusetts Turnpike.

For an even more convenient college experience, Westfield State offers many online courses and programs that can be accessed from work or home.

Typical Driving Times

- Springfield: 25 mins.
- Holyoke: 25 mins.
- Chicopee: 25 mins.
- Ludlow: 25 mins.
- South Hadley: 30 mins.
- Easthampton: 30 mins.
- Northampton: 35 mins.
- Granby: 35 mins.
- Enfield: 35 mins.
- Palmer: 40 mins.
- Windsor Locks: 40 mins.

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Post-Baccalaureate Programs

This program is designed for:

• Students who have a Bachelor’s degree and wish to become a certified teacher
• Students who want to earn an additional licensure in Massachusetts

Our Shared Vision:

Teachers as Leaders Building Learning Communities

Our vision is the outgrowth of community discussions among education faculty, liberal arts and science faculty, students, and Pre-K-12 teachers. Central to all conversations has been the tenet of building learning communities, including the desire to strengthen the abilities of teachers to advocate for their students and their profession. At a time of increased accountability, the larger Westfield State learning community continues its commitment to prepare graduates to educate the children of the Commonwealth. Consequently, all our Teacher Education Programs embrace a vision of Teachers as Leaders Building Learning Communities.

At the initial licensure level, learning communities are environments where learners share skills and experiences that enhance individual and common goals. Recognizing that leadership takes many forms, we prepare our students to serve the learning communities in a variety of ways: in the classroom, on committees, with parents, and through mentoring and professional development. This preparation is grounded in an awareness of the professional self combined with an integration of fundamental theory and practice. This knowledge, in turn, supports the development of subsequent relationships with colleagues, with students, and with the communities our teachers seek to build or change. These professional relationships will define the nature of the learning communities our graduates help to create and the context for their community leadership.

Initial Licensure programs are performance-based and designed so our candidates will be able to meet both subject matter and pedagogical outcomes:

1. The candidate can describe/explain the central concepts, tools of inquiry, and structures of the discipline(s) he or she teaches and can create learning experiences that make these aspects of subject matter meaningful for students.
2. The candidate can describe and discuss how children learn and develop, and can provide learning opportunities that support their intellectual, social and personal development.
3. The candidate can describe/explain how students differ in their approaches to learning and create instructional opportunities that are adapted to diverse learners.
4. The candidate uses a variety of instructional strategies to encourage students’ development of critical thinking, problem solving, and performance skills.
5. The candidate creates a learning environment that encourages positive social interaction, active engagement in learning, and self-motivation.
6. The candidate uses a variety of instructional media to foster student learning and collaboration.
7. The candidate plans instruction based upon knowledge of subject matter, students, the community, and curriculum goals.
8. The candidate uses formal and informal assessment strategies to evaluate and ensure the continuous intellectual, social, and physical development of the learner.
9. The candidate is a reflective practitioner who continually evaluates the effects of his/her choices and actions on others (students, parents, and other professionals in the learning community), and who actively seeks out opportunities to grow professionally.
10. The candidate fosters relationships with school colleagues, parents, and agencies in the larger community to support students’ learning and well-being.

Post-Baccalaureate Admission Process

Applications to the post-baccalaureate teacher licensure program require the following:

1. Application and $30.00 fee (non-refundable)
2. Two letters of recommendation (professional)
3. Official transcripts with college seals and in sealed envelopes from all schools listed on application
4. Documentation of passing scores on the Massachusetts Communication and Literacy Skills Test (MTEL)
5. Cumulative grade point average of at least 2.6 (inclusive of all post-secondary work)
6. Proof of Residency form

Post-Baccalaureate Teacher Licensure Programs

This program affords many students who have completed a Bachelor’s degree the opportunity to earn initial licensure in the following subject areas:

- BIOLOGY, 8–12
- BUSINESS, 5–12
- CHEMISTRY, 8–12
- EARLY CHILDHOOD, PRE-K–2
- ELEMENTARY, 1–6
- ENGLISH, 5–8, 8–12
- GENERAL SCIENCE, 5–8
- HISTORY, 5–8, 8–12
- MATHEMATICS, 5–8, 8–12
- MUSIC, ALL
- PHYSICAL EDUCATION, PRE-K–8, 5–12
- TEACHER OF STUDENTS WITH MODERATE DISABILITIES, PRE-K–8, 5–12
- VISUAL ART, PRE-K–8, 5–12

Prerequisites for Programs:

- Bachelor’s Degree
- Passing scores on the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL) Communication and Literacy test

- GPA of 2.6 for admission into the program
- Average GPA of 2.7 in English Composition I and II
- GPA of 2.8 to enroll in practicum

* For those looking to enroll in the Teacher of Students with Moderate Disabilities Licensure, in addition to the Communication and Literacy MTEL, the student must pass either the general curriculum test or a subject test in one of the core academic subjects taught in 5–8 or 8–12.

We also offer Master of Education Programs

The Master of Education program, which leads to initial licensure, is available to students who are seeking licensure as an Elementary Teacher, 1–6, an Early Childhood Teacher, Pre-K–2, a Teacher of Students with Moderate Disabilities, Pre-K–8, Teacher of Students with Moderate Disabilities, 5–12, Teacher of Biology, 8–12, Teacher of Chemistry, 8–12, Teacher of General Science, 5–8, Teacher of History, 5–8 and 8–12, Teacher of Mathematics, 5–8 and 8–12. The Master of Arts in English with Initial Licensure, 5–8 and 8–12 is also available.

Program of Study

On acceptance into a teacher licensure program, students complete a program of study which will serve as a guide when determining future coursework. It is important for the student to complete a program of study with his/her advisor as early as possible in the program. Once accepted, students will receive contact information to schedule an appointment with an academic advisor.

Post-Baccalaureate Teacher Licensure

Cost per 3 credit course, including all fees

Westfield State: Average Cost at Private School

$750 – $810
$1,900

(SUMMER 2010)