

**Informational Handout
Education Program
ECTC**

Thank you for your interest in the Education Program at ECTC. Please read the information in this handout carefully and then contact Julie Coy, Program Coordinator, to schedule an advising appointment.

Step 1: Choose your area of certification from the following options:

Certification Options in Kentucky

- Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education (IECE). Birth-Kindergarten. This certification allows teachers to work in the public schools as a three- or four-year old preschool teacher or a Kindergarten teacher. Students interested in this certification area should contact Martha Page, Program Coordinator, at mpage0003@kctcs.edu or 270-706-8499.
- Elementary Education: Kindergarten-Fifth grade. This certification allows teachers to teach in self-contained classrooms in grades K-5. These teachers are responsible for teaching all of the content areas (math, reading, writing, social studies, health, science, etc)..
- Middle Grades Education: Grades 5-9. Teachers who are middle grades certified are certified to teach a specific subject area(s). Subject areas include math, science, social studies, and/or language arts.
- Secondary Education: Grades 8-12. Teachers who are secondary certified also teach specific subject areas. Subject areas include (but are not limited to) English, math, social studies, biology, earth science, chemistry, anatomy and physiology, etc.
- K-12 certifications. The following areas certify teachers in grades K-12: P.E., health, music, art, foreign language, or school/media librarian.
- Grades 5-12 certifications. The following areas certify teachers in grades 5-12: Business and Marketing Education, Consumer and Family Science, Agriculture, Industrial Education, or Engineering and Technology.
- Exceptional Children: (Kindergarten through Grade 12 and for collaborating with teachers to design and deliver programs) - Preparation includes one or more of the following specializations: learning and behavior disorders, moderate and severe disabilities, hearing impaired, hearing impaired with sign proficiency, visually impaired, or communication disorders

Step 2: Decide which four-year college/university you will transfer to in order to finish your degree and certification requirements. It is important to make this decision as soon as possible since different four-year institutions have specific requirements that may differ from one institution to another.

NOTE: Western Kentucky University has brought the elementary and middle grades programs to the ECTC campus. This means that once a student completes his/her Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree that has been tailored toward their certification area, that student will transfer and become a WKU student. The 300- and 400-level courses required for the bachelor degree will be offered either on the main ECTC campus or WKU's Radcliff or Ft. Knox facilities. Students who pursue elementary or middle grades through WKU will not be required to attend classes on the main campus in Bowling Green.

While 99% of the education students at ECTC finish through WKU, the remaining students tend to transfer to U of L. There are other public and private four-year institutions in Kentucky that have teacher education program. The AA or AS degree will transfer to any of these institutions. Once you choose your transfer institution, your ECTC Education advisor will help make sure you follow a program of study that allows you to meet all the requirements for transfer. Please note that students who change their mind regarding their transfer institution in the middle of their program at ECTC may find that they have to take additional coursework to meet the requirements of their new transfer institution. The sooner you decide the answer to Step 2, the less likely you will be to get behind in your sequence of courses.

Another important note/reminder:

In case there is any confusion, please understand that the AAS—Teacher Preparation option is **NOT** the route that is best for teacher education majors. That is an older degree option that is no longer the best route for students.

Step 3: Contact the program coordinator to schedule an advising appointment.

There is a lot of additional information that you will receive once you meet with your advisor. New students or current students who are changing their major to education are strongly advised to contact Julie Coy, Program Coordinator, at julies.coy@kctcs.edu or by phone at 270-706-8672. Returning students who have more than 30 credit hours and can self advise are strongly discouraged from doing so. Meeting with an education advisor will ensure that you are on the correct path toward your area of certification.

If you have coursework from other colleges, please follow the procedure to have it transferred to ECTC as soon as possible. We do not want to have students repeat courses that they can receive credit for.

Online Courses

When you meet with your advisor to register for classes, you will be advised to take your EDU or EDP courses at ECTC in a face-to-face format vs an online format. None of the online sections of EDU or EDP courses that are being offered through KCTCS are taught by ECTC faculty. Upon the advice from local school districts, we have determined that it is in the best interest of students to take these classes in a traditional, face-to-face format. Other courses may be taken in an online format without causing any problems.

Students who take EDU and EDP courses online will not receive information specific to WKU and will not have met all admission requirements to the WKU teacher education program. This will put students at least one semester behind schedule. We offer all of the 200-level EDU and EDP courses every fall and spring on both MWF and TR. We also rotate these courses on the schedule at night each semester.

Also note that all EDU and EDP courses have required field observation hours that must be completed in the public school systems. Information about the specific requirements for each course will be covered during the first week of classes each semester. Students who do not complete all of the required field hours for a course will receive a failing grade for that course.

Students pursuing Elementary or Middle Grades at WKU

The following link will take you to WKU's website where you can find the program of study for elementary and middle grades majors who plan to finish through WKU on the ECTC campus. Please note that the first page of each plan is the AA or AS degree that you will finish with ECTC. The second page shows the courses you will take once you transfer to WKU and are accepted into their teacher education program. This includes your last semester at WKU which is your student teaching semester.

<http://www.wku.edu/etown-ftknox/programs.php>