



Woodring College of Education

What Distinguishes the College or its Programs?

Woodring College of Education is recognized throughout Washington, and beyond, as a leader in the development and implementation of programs that prepare outstanding early childhood through adult educators and educational administrators; human services and nursing professionals; and rehabilitation counselors.

Learn more about Woodring: <https://wce.wvu.edu/>

Recognition and Accreditation

Woodring programs are accredited by: the Northwest Commission of Colleges and Universities (NWCCU); the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC); the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC); the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE); and the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

Compass 2 Campus and the Human Services program received a national 2014 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with distinction award. This was Compass 2 Campus' fifth award. Through Compass 2 Campus, 5,833 mentors have provided 243,885 hours of mentoring to low-income and historically excluded 5th-12th grade students in 40 Whatcom and Skagit County schools and programs.

The Special Education program is recognized by the Council for Exceptional Children and was named ninth in the top 10 nationally by Teacher.Org and seventh by the National Council on Teacher Quality.

The Early Childhood Education Program is recognized by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

Western's RN-to-BSN Program is approved by the WA Board of Nursing. Additionally, the baccalaureate degree program in nursing at Western Washington University is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

Undergraduate Academic Programs

Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Special Education, Secondary Education, Human Services, Registered Nurse to Bachelor's Degree in Nursing (RN-to-BSN).

Internship, Research, and Extracurricular Engagement

Human Services and Teacher Education programs require practicum coursework and internships. Our Office of Field Experiences is available in assisting students finding placements in their area of interest. Also, many courses have a service-learning component, which gives students the opportunity to work in schools and community partner agencies.

Other opportunities include mentoring programs such as Compass 2 Campus, Woodring Peer Mentor program, Future Woodring Scholars, the Reading Tutor program in the Bellingham School District, and many more opportunities to help organize and participate in special events around Western's campus and the neighboring community and school districts.

The Student Washington Education Association (SWEA), a chapter of the Washington Education Association (WEA), has an active chapter at Woodring, as does Students for Social Change. Student memberships are available individually in several professional organizations.

Equity and Diversity Initiatives

At Fairhaven, students are challenged to bring what they learn to bear on human concerns and Woodring College is committed to removing barriers that prevent many young people and non-traditional students from low-income families and underrepresented groups from accessing high quality education and human services. We are committed to developing and sustaining practices that promote social justice and a more equitable society. We take a proactive approach to admissions through our Recruitment and Retention Office which works one-on-one with prospective and incoming students to provide holistic advising, mentoring, and scholarship support throughout their journey at Western.

Woodring faculty started the Education and Social Justice Minor which serves hundreds of students at Western who are interested in working with children and youth in a variety of settings to foster social justice. This program provides students, who may or may not be seeking teacher certification, the opportunity to study deeply about how to address equity issues in a variety of educational settings.

The Woodring Equity & Diversity Committee provides community and support for faculty and staff working on issues of diversity and social justice in the college, as well as providing funds for scholarships, events, and related projects.

The Center for Education, Equity, and Diversity (CEED), strives to provide a safe and welcoming space for underrepresented students, providing resources, study areas, and activities such as Native Lunch.

Woodring also hosts or cohosts several events, such as the Migrant Youth Leadership Conference and the Justice Speaks series.

Successful Alumni

Nearly 10,000 alumni are employed in Washington State as teachers, principals, and superintendents. In the last 6 years, five have been named Washington State's Principal of the Year and one Teacher of the Year. Two have been awarded national Milken Educator Awards for Excellence in Teaching (the "Oscars" for teaching). Human Services alumni direct a variety of agencies, from the Max Higbee Center to Growing Veterans, a nationally recognized program for helping combat vets reintegrate in their communities through sustainable agriculture.

Application Process & Requirements

Human Services

Requires both a program application and a Western application. 2.75 GPA. Three writing prompts. Everett and Distance Learning students must have a completed DTA. Bellingham students must be within 10 credits of having their GURs completed. Competitive applicants have very strong responses to writing prompts.

RN-to-BSN

Western's Nursing Program is a **bachelor's degree completion program** for graduates of associate degree (ADN) registered nursing programs. Applicants to the program are either currently licensed RNs or students in their final year of nursing school at a community or technical college. Applicants to our program are considered transfer students and they complete four quarters at Western to earn their bachelor's degree in nursing degree. Western does not teach the first two years of nursing school so students with a pre-nursing degree or those students new to nursing education are not eligible for admission to the BSN program. Applicants who earn their Nursing DTA degree transfer seamlessly to Western and only need to take RN-to-BSN program classes.

Teacher Education

At minimum, all teacher education programs require that applicants have met the basic skills requirement, have a 2.75 minimum GPA, and have completed ENG 101 (or COMM 101, or JOUR 106) with a grade of B- or higher.

Learn more about the basic skills requirement: <https://wce.wvu.edu/admissions/basic-skills>

Applicants are required to submit a separate application directly to their program of interest. Each program has unique requirements, and we **HIGHLY SUGGEST** potential applicants seek advising from the Teacher Education Admissions office as early as possible.

Students/Advisors can book a Zoom appointment to meet with an advisor:

<https://wce.wvu.edu/advising/meet-advisor>

For information on specific programs:

- Special Education (UG/PB) - <https://wce.wvu.edu/elit/sped/admission>
- Elementary Education (UG/PB) - <https://wce.wvu.edu/eled/admission>
- Early Childhood Education (UG/PB) - <https://wce.wvu.edu/ece>
- Secondary Education (UG/PB or MIT) - <https://wce.wvu.edu/sec/admission-registration>

Graduate Programs

Application to graduate programs require candidates to fulfill the admission requirements of WWU's Graduate School and demonstrate professional goals consistent with those of the program. Woodring has several graduate programs including:

- **M.Ed. in Adult and Higher Education** – This program is designed for those who desire to teach, consult, or administer education programs, materials and policies targeted to diverse adult populations.
- **MA in Rehabilitation Counseling** – This program is designed specifically to give candidates the ability to serve individuals with disabilities. Rehabilitation counselors understand that the medical and psychosocial elements of disabilities are informed by cultural contexts, and the resulting counseling process is built around co-collaboration between each individual and their counselor.
- **M.Ed. in Language and Literacy** – This program is ideal for certified classroom teachers with at least one year of teaching experience and those who are or want to become reading or multilingual specialists or literacy and instructional coaches. Graduates will leave with a strong understanding of literacy research and theory and effective teaching of language, reading, and writing.
- **M.Ed. or EdD in Educational Leadership** – This program is designed to prepare elementary and secondary school teachers and ESAs to assume leadership roles as principals, vice principals, program and department leaders, or instructional technology specialists.
- **Masters in Teaching** – This program is designed for candidates who wish to complete a master's degree while obtaining state of Washington residency certification to teach at the secondary level (middle and high school). Available in both Bellingham and Everett.

Frequently Asked Questions

How long does it take to become a teacher?

Advising is the only way to determine this for specific programs and individuals. It depends on several factors, including: the program, number of transfer credits, progress in major requirements, etc. We highly recommend that students book an appointment with the Teacher Education advisor as early as possible to ensure they are provided full information and support from the beginning of their time at Western. Teacher Education students can book a Zoom appointment to meet with an advisor.

Can you get your RN license and BSN in the RN-BSN program?

No, the closest four-year BSN program is in the Seattle area. Western's program is a degree completion program for Nursing professionals who either have their RN licensure or those who are in the final year of a pre-licensure nursing program.

What makes a competitive applicant to your college's programs?

Excellent communication skills. Following instructions and essay prompts exactly. Getting early advising directly from the program.