The mission of graduate education at West Chester University is to provide high-quality, accessible graduate degrees, certification, and certificate programs responsive to students’ needs for professional development and educational enrichment. The offerings reflect a wide range of master’s programs as well as a selected number of specialist and professional growth opportunities. The quality of programs is enhanced by the graduate students’ access to and interaction with faculty and by the richness of the diverse student body. The graduate programs are integrated with the research, outreach, and development functions of the University. The faculty fosters excellence in teaching and promotes an intellectual environment that actively supports quality graduate education. The goals of graduate study at this University are as follows:

1. Foster an attitude of intellectual and creative inquiry and to develop research and analytical skills that are applicable to professional settings.
2. Increase the professional skills and academic competence of students to enable them to make important contributions to their professions.
3. Prepare students for further graduate study.
4. Meet the needs of college graduates who are preparing for changing career roles in the future.

Graduate education at West Chester has grown remarkably since its introduction in 1959. Approximately 2,800 students now attend during the fall and spring semesters; some 1,900 enroll for summer sessions. West Chester University's graduate program is the largest within the 14 Commonwealth–owned institutions of higher learning.

The University began as the West Chester Academy in 1812 and functioned as a normal school from 1871-1927. Since it became a four-year college in 1927, West Chester has grown steadily and is now one of the major comprehensive institutions of higher learning in the Philadelphia area.

West Chester University offers graduate programs on main campus, at the Graduate Center, in Center City Philadelphia, and online. Each of our convenient locations contains well-appointed classrooms and meeting spaces, parking, lounges and faculty offices. Our main campus is located at 700 South High Street in the borough of West Chester, just 25 miles west of Philadelphia and 17 miles north of Wilmington, Delaware. The Graduate Center is located in the Greenhill Corporate Park on McDermott Drive (just off the Boot Road exit of Rt. 202), about five miles from the main campus. The Philadelphia campus is located in the heart of Center City at Mellon Independence Center, 701 Market Street, Philadelphia.

The University offers a diverse range of graduate programs, including doctoral degrees, masters degrees, and graduate certificates. There are over 80 areas of study offered.

The provisions of this catalog are not to be regarded as an irrevocable contract between the student and the University. West Chester University reserves the right to change any provisions or requirements at any time.