DEPARTMENT OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

Overview
501 Anderson Hall
610-436-2899
Department of Secondary Education (https://www.wcupa.edu/education-socialWork/secondaryEducation/default.aspx)
Laura Renzi (lrenzi@wcupa.edu), Chairperson

Programs of Study
The Department of Secondary Education offers an M.Ed in Secondary Education that leads to Pennsylvania Level Certification, granted by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. This program is designed for candidates who (a) have completed an undergraduate degree in an area other than education, and (b) have the necessary content coursework in one of the following certification areas: Biology, Chemistry, Earth and Space Science, English, Math, Physics, or Social Studies. The department offers two tracks in this degree program.

The residency program is a one-year, full-time program starting in Summer Session I and ending at the end of the spring semester. All content coursework must be completed to enter this track of the program. The non-residency program provides a flexible pathway for degree and certification completion.

Programs
Master’s Programs
- M.Ed. in Secondary Education (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/graduate/education-social-work/secondary-education/secondary-education-med/)
- M.Ed. in Secondary Education - Residency Option (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/graduate/education-social-work/secondary-education/secondary-education-med-residency-option/)

Certification
- Secondary English Certification Option (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/graduate/education-social-work/secondary-education/secondary-english-certification-option/)

Admissions
All applicants to one of West Chester University’s graduate programs will be held to the graduate admissions requirements (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/general-information/admissions-enrollment/graduate-admissions/). When applicable, additional requirements for admission into specific department program(s) may be listed below.

Admission Requirements for the M.Ed. in Secondary Education Programs
M.Ed in Secondary Education with 7-12 Certification
1. An undergraduate degree in certification area from an accredited college or university (or see below)
2. Two letters of recommendation – one specifically speaking to the applicant’s work with children and/or adolescents.
3. Application, including goal statements and certification area
4. 3.0 GPA in last 48 credits of undergraduate degree, 2.8 GPA overall
5. Admission interview (only if deemed necessary)
6. Copy of passing scores on PDE-mandated Praxis II subject concentration (conditional acceptance possible with passing score required by end of first semester in program)

7-12 Math Certification
Candidate has an undergraduate degree in math, or at least 30 credits covering the following: Calculus I, Calculus II, Calculus III, Linear Algebra, and Statistics.
Preferred upper-level courses in: Geometry, Differential Equations, Abstract Algebra, Real Analysis or Advanced Calculus, History of Mathematics.

7-12 Biology Certification
Applicant holds a bachelor’s degree in Biology or at least 30 credits in biology covering the following: General Biology I, General Biology II, Cell Biology/Physiology, Genetics, Evolution, and Ecology.

7-12 Chemistry Certification
Applicant holds a bachelor’s degree in Chemistry or at least 30 credits in chemistry covering the following: General Chemistry I, General Chemistry II, Organic Chemistry I, Organic Chemistry II, Analytical/instrumental Chemistry, and Inorganic or Physical Chemistry.

7-12 Earth and Space Science Certification
Applicant holds a bachelor’s degree in Earth and Space Science or at least 30 credits in Earth and Space Science covering the following: Field/Historical Geology, Mineralogy, Petrology/Sedimentology, Geomorphology, Meteorology, and Oceanography/Astronomy.

7-12 Physics Certification
Applicant holds a bachelor’s degree in Physics or at least 30 credits in physics covering the following: General Physics I, General Physics II, Mechanics, Electricity & Magnetism, modern Physics, and Optics.

7-12 English Language Arts Certification
Applicant holds a bachelor’s degree in English or at least 30 credits in English covering the following: American Literature, British Literature, World Literature, Linguistics, Writing coursework (beyond general education writing coursework – recommended journalism, linguistics, creative writing, etc.), and Young Adult Literature (preferred).

7-12 Social Studies Certification
Applicant holds a bachelor’s degree in History, Political Science or Geography or at least 30 credits in one of the above subject areas. Because of the scope of 7-12 social studies certification, the following are highly recommended: Survey coursework in American history, world history, political science, psychology, geography, anthropology/sociology, upper-level research/inquiry-based coursework in history, political science or geography.

Admission Requirements for the Secondary English Certification Option
Applicants for Certification in Secondary English will need to submit the following materials:
1. Completed application
2. Official transcript(s)
3. B.A. degree with GPA of 2.8 or higher

Policies
All graduate students are held to the academic policies and procedures (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/graduate/academic-policies-procedures/) outlined in the graduate catalog. Students are encouraged to review departmental handbooks for program tips, suggested course sequences, and explanations of procedures. When applicable, additional policies for specific department programs may be listed below.
Faculty

Professors
Karın E. Gedge (kgedge@wcupa.edu) (1997)
B.A., Lake Forest College; M.A., State University of New York at Brockport; Ph.D., Yale University
Daniel Robert Ilaria (dilaria@wcupa.edu) (2011)
B.A., Drew University; Ed.M., M.S., Ph.D., Rutgers University
Laura Renzi (lrenzi@wcupa.edu) (2008)
Chairperson, Secondary Education
B.A., University of Pittsburgh; M.Ed., Lehigh University; Ph.D., Ohio State University
Pauline S. Schmidt (pschmidt@wcupa.edu) (2012)
B.S.Ed., Buffalo State, The State University of Buffalo; M.S.Ed., Ph.D., University at Buffalo

Assistant Professors
Brett A. Criswell (bcriswell@wcupa.edu) (2019)
B.S., Indiana University of Pennsylvania; M.S., University of Pittsburgh; Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University
Jennifer A Hummer (jhummer@wcupa.edu) (2020)
B.A., Arizona State University; M.A., Brooklyn College; M.S., The College of Saint Rose; Ph.D., University of Delaware

Courses

SED

SED 501. Learning, Teaching, and Outcomes I. 6 Credits.
This course focuses on building foundational pedagogical knowledge around understanding adolescent learning and development, planning, curriculum, and instruction in the context of the school and relevance to student, as well as assessing and building upon students’ prior knowledge, strengths, and needs. Residency candidates will explore how learning student backgrounds and histories affect their classroom performance. They will plan lessons around research-based effective practices, gather data to examine what student learning looks like through formal and informal assessments, and use data to develop action plans and adjust instructional plans to address student learning needs. Additionally, resident candidates will participate in community engagement activities.
Typically offered in Summer.

SED 502. Learning, Teaching, and Outcomes II. 6 Credits.
This course continues to develop pedagogical knowledge around understanding adolescent learning and development, planning, curriculum, and instruction in the context of the school and relevance to student, as well as assessing and building upon students’ prior knowledge, strengths, and needs. Residency candidates will learn classroom management techniques and build a plan for classroom behavior that builds upon students’ backgrounds and need. They will learn about special education laws and regulations and how to integrate special education strategies to support all learners and provide students with appropriate accommodations to enhance their learning. Additionally, residency candidates will implement knowledge along with learning about instructional technology to develop and implement a week-long STEM camp curriculum for high school students.
Pre / Co requisites: SED 502 requires a prerequisite of SED 501.
Typically offered in Summer.

SED 503. Reflective Teaching Seminar I. 1 Credit.
The reflective seminar is an opportunity to build and reflect upon pedagogical knowledge, content knowledge for teaching, and pedagogical content knowledge based on the experiences in the classroom. Each session will focus on topics that will allow teacher candidates to consolidate their thinking and apply their learning.
Pre / Co requisites: SED 503 requires a prerequisite of SED 502.
Typically offered in Fall.

SED 505. Field Experience For Secondary Teachers. 3 Credits.
The purpose of this course is to apply the skills, techniques, and dispositions required to be an effective secondary teacher. This course will allow students to work in a classroom setting to examine how the curriculum is delivered in a secondary school setting. They will work with students on an individual or group basis, work cooperatively with teachers, and participate in the lesson and assessment planning process. By the end of the course, they should teach at least one lesson in a classroom setting.
Pre / Co requisites: SED 505 requires students to be majors only.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

SED 510. Teaching and Learning in Secondary Education. 3 Credits.
The objective of this course is to give students the skills, techniques, and dispositions required to be an effective secondary education teacher. This course will discuss research-based effective strategies for teaching. Emphasis will be placed on how assessment, technology, and curriculum impact teaching and learning across and within subject disciplines.
Pre / Co requisites: SED 510 requires a prerequisite of SED 530 or SED 550 or SED 560 or SED 590; and a corequisite of SED 511.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

SED 511. Secondary Student Teaching. 6 Credits.
Candidates in the Master’s in Secondary Education program will complete the certification portion of their program with a sixteen-week student teaching experience. This will include observation and participation in teaching and all other activities related to the teacher’s work in the area of the student’s specialization. Field clearances required.
Consent: Permission of the Department required to add.
Typically offered in Spring.

SED 515. Action Research Seminar. 3 Credits.
This course represents the capstone research experience for the M.Ed. in Secondary Education, non-residency option. Candidates conceptualize, conduct, and communicate an action research project in the student teaching internship.
Pre / Co requisites: SED 515 requires a corequisite of SED 511.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

SED 530. Teaching and Learning in Secondary Social Studies. 6 Credits.
This course supports graduate candidates seeking 7-12 Secondary Social Studies PA certification, providing intensive coursework in designing, implementing, and assessing teaching and learning in the social studies disciplines. Candidates are supervised in the application of these skills in the field experience.
Consent: Permission of the Department required to add.
Typically offered in Fall.

SED 550. Teaching and Learning in Secondary Mathematics. 6 Credits.
The objective of this course is to give students the skills, techniques, and dispositions required to be an effective secondary mathematics teacher. This course will examine a core set of high-leverage practices and teaching skills necessary to promote deep learning of mathematics based on NCTM’s Mathematics Teaching Practices from Principles to Actions (2014).
Pre / Co requisites: SED 550 requires a corequisite of SED 505.
Typically offered in Fall.

SED 560. Teaching and Learning in Secondary Science. 6 Credits.
Philosophy, objectives, and methods of science teaching for Grades 7-12. Practical experience provided.
Pre / Co requisites: SED 560 requires prerequisites of Teacher Candidacy and up-to-date clearances (criminal record, child abuse, FBI, and TB).
Typically offered in Fall.

SED 570. Teaching and Learning in Secondary Science and Mathematics I. 6 Credits.
The objective of this course is to give students the skills, techniques, and dispositions required to be an effective secondary science or mathematics teacher. This course will discuss research-based effective strategies for teaching, such as orchestrating mathematical discussion, writing learning progressions, formative assessment, growth-mindset-oriented teaching strategies, and the use of technology across mathematics and science content. Particular emphasis will be given to teaching the more overarching concepts in each of these areas as well as making connections between topics and between courses. Emphasis will be placed on developing the thinking skills of high school students relevant to their cultural, social, and racial backgrounds.
Pre / Co requisites: SED 570 requires a prerequisite of SED 502.
Typically offered in Fall.
SED 571. Teaching and Learning in Secondary Science and Mathematics II. 3 Credits.
The objective of this course is to give students the skills, techniques, and dispositions required to be an effective secondary science or mathematics teacher. This course will continue to build their capacity to implement research-based effective strategies for teaching, such as productive struggle, culturally relevant content pedagogy, uses of mathematics and science in society, and the use of technology across mathematics and science content. Particular emphasis will be given to teaching the more overarching concepts in each of these areas as well as making connections between topics and between courses. Emphasis will be placed on developing the thinking skills of high school students relevant to their cultural, social, and racial backgrounds.
Pre / Co requisites: SED 571 requires a prerequisite of SED 570.
Typically offered in Spring.

SED 590. Teaching and Learning in Secondary English Language Arts. 6 Credits.
In this intensive experience, candidates acquire and practice content and pedagogical knowledge and skills for designing curriculum and assessment in an inclusive secondary English Language Arts classroom. Candidates develop self-reflective practices and professional knowledge and dispositions. The course offers learning experiences that model best practices as they teach them and ample field experience so that students develop and practice these pedagogical skills under supervision from faculty and field experience co-teachers. Candidates acquire knowledge from these activities and a variety of videos and readings in textbooks, scholarly articles, and websites in order to answer these essential questions: What should I teach in the ELA classroom? Why should I teach the ELA? How should I teach the ELA? How do I know my students have learned? What do I do to become a professional educator?
Pre / Co requisites: SED 590 requires a prerequisite of SED 505.
Consent: Permission of the Department required to add.
Typically offered in Fall.