

## The Program

The **Alternative Certification for Teachers Program (ACT)** is a post-baccalaureate, non-degree, evening program for adults who want to prepare for a new career as classroom teachers. Courses are offered in the evening, on weekends, and during the summer. The Alternative Certification Program is approved by the State of Virginia.

The ACT Program has three tracks to meet the needs of a variety of prospective teachers and those who are already teaching.

**Track 1** is for prospective teachers who want initial licensure. The state approved program must be completed for VWC to recommend teacher certification

**Track 2** is for teachers who hold a provisional license. The teachers enroll in the course or courses identified by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). A transcript is provided for students to send to VDOE upon completion of course or courses

**Track 3** is for teachers and others who wish to take courses for endorsement purposes, license renewal, or for personal knowledge. Teacher assistants can take courses in this track.

### Getting Started

1. Have a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution
2. Demonstrate significant involvement in a career for at least one year since graduation from college
3. Arrange to have official transcripts sent to The Adult Studies Program, Virginia Wesleyan College, 1584 Wesleyan Drive, Norfolk, VA 23502
4. Pass Praxis I and Praxis II and have the scores sent to VWC or submit SAT scores (according to Virginia Department of Education Guidelines) in lieu of Praxis I scores.
5. Pass VCLA.
6. Students will not be admitted to the Program, Track 1, if they have not passed Praxis I and VCLA.
7. Complete the application to the program and pay the non-refundable application fee

### Fees & Tuition

Tuition for courses is set by The Adult Studies Program. Students make a deposit towards full tuition at the time of registration. The balance is due according to the time line specified by the Adult Studies Program.

Applicants interested in financial aid may contact the Financial Aid Office at (757) 455-3345

## Preferred Professional Education Course Sequence

### Elementary Certification Schedule

1. EDUC 225 2. EDUC 375	3. EDUC 320 4. EDUC 335	5. EDUC 321 6. EDUC 324
7. INST 303 EDUC 461 EDUC 462 Student Teaching		

### Secondary Certification Schedule

1. EDUC 338 2. EDUC 225	3. EDUC 375 4. EDUC 319	5. EDUC 324 6. INST 303
7. EDUC 463 EDUC 464 Student Teaching		

### Praxis Test Data

In October, 1998, the U.S. Congress amended the Higher Education Act and addressed the issue of accountability for teacher preparation programs. To that end, they require that colleges share the results of tests each year for those students who have completed the teacher preparation program. The results are show below.

#### Title II Pass Rate Data for 2004-2005 Aggregate Scores for Basic Skills

Virginia Wesleyan College	100%	
State of Virginia	99%	
Basic Skills by Test	VWC	State
PPST Reading	81%	90%
PPST Writing	63%	82%
PPST Mathematics	86%	85%
CPPST Reading	82%	89%
CPPST Writing	96%	79%
CPPST Mathematics	75%	85%

### Where to Take Praxis I and II

- Virginia Wesleyan College's Test Center, Pruden Hall  
Call 455-3126 for information and to schedule an appointment for Praxis I
- [www.ets.org/praxis](http://www.ets.org/praxis) Visit the ETS web site for more information about the test and other test sites.

## Professional Education Course Work

### EDUC 324 Foundations of Education (3)

Provides an understanding of the philosophical, historical, and sociological foundations underlying the role, development, and organization of public education in the United States. Attention is given to the legal status of teachers and students, including federal and state laws and regulations, schools as an organization/culture, gifted and talented programs, special education issues, cultural diversity, and contemporary issues in education. Offered each semester.

### EDUC 225 Characteristics of the Learner (3)

Focuses on the child from birth through adolescence. Developmental issues will be related to styles of teaching, classroom organization, and management. Special topics include the interaction with children with individual differences, gifted education, multiculturalism, and attention deficit disorder. The influence of the media and family issues are also included. Offered each semester.

### EDUC 320 Teaching Reading and the Language Arts (3)

Provides the **elementary teacher** with an understanding of language acquisition and reading including phonemic awareness, an understanding of sound/symbol relationships, explicit phonics instruction, syllables, phonemes, morphemes, decoding skills, word attack skills, and knowledge of how phonics, syntax, and semantics interact. The course provides for an understanding of the content, knowledge, skills, and processes required to teach the Virginia Standards of Learning in grades preK-6. This includes reading, literature, and oral language (speaking and listening). All lesson plans written by the students focus on SOL objectives. *Elementary Program Only* Offered each semester.

### EDUC 321 Diagnostic Teaching of Reading (3)

Provides prospective teachers with strategies and techniques for implementing ongoing classroom diagnosis and remediation in reading skills through the use of both informal and standardized assessment tools. Students develop appropriate instructional strategies to meet individual needs in reading as well as the related language arts of listening, speaking, spelling, grammar, and writing. Instructional strategies are also taught that will assist prospective teachers promote progress with Standards of Learning (SOL) as well as end-of-course and end-of-grade SOL assessments. *Prerequisite EDUC 320 Elementary Program Only*. Offered each semester.

**EDUC 319 Reading in the Content Area (3)**

A study of the reading process as it applies to the teaching of reading and an understanding of comprehension skills in content areas at the middle and secondary school levels. Emphasis is placed on effective strategies for the teaching of reading such as questioning strategies, summarizing and retelling, and enhancing skills for literal, interpretive, critical, and evaluative comprehension. The course will also foster an appreciation of a variety of literature and independent reading.

*Secondary Program only* Offered each semester.

**EDUC 338 Middle Education Teaching Methods (Grades 6 - 8) (3)**

Includes curriculum and instructional procedures for middle education. Topics include principles of learning, communication processes, intelligences, lesson planning, cooperative learning, and middle school philosophy, curricular concepts, and SOL instructional practices. *Secondary Program only* Offered each semester.

**EDUC 375.94 Content Methods preK-6 (3)**

This course prepares the prospective teacher to plan and implement effective lesson plans for the student in grades preK-6. The course also includes classroom management, discipline, motivation, and evaluation. A field experience of 12 clock hours is an essential component of this course and is to be completed during the regular hours of local public schools. Students must submit Placement Request forms and Tuberculin Test results to the Director of Field Experiences before beginning the Practicum. *Elementary Program only* Offered each semester.

**EDUC 375 Content Teaching Methods (3)**

A survey of the structure and development of curricula. Major emphasis is on planning, implementing, and evaluating instruction. There is a focus on specific discipline and methodology to promote student academic progress and effective preparation for the Standards of Learning Assessments. The course includes planning and teaching methods for exceptional students including gifted and talented and those with disabling conditions. A 12-hour field experience is an essential component of this course. Students must submit Placement Request Forms and Tuberculin Test results to the Director of Field Experiences before beginning the Practicum. *Prerequisite EDUC 338. Secondary Program only.* Offered each Fall.

**EDUC 335 Teaching Math and Science in Schools (3)**

Designed to aid future teachers in their understanding of the integration of the knowledge, skills and processes to support learners in the achievement of the Standards of Learning (SOL) in mathematics and science. Many math and science labs will be conducted. *Prerequisite, EDUC 375:94. Elementary program only.* Offered each semester.

**INST 303 Applied Technology for Innovative Instruction (3)**

Provides an opportunity for the student to master introductory concepts and to gain experience in the use of technology aids to produce educational materials, instructional units, and to increase the efficiency of instruction in the classroom. The course also provides the background and skills for educators to meet the Technology Standards for Instructional Personnel and provides opportunities to acquire necessary skills for teaching Computer/Technology Standards K-12 as outlined in the Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools. *Prerequisites EDUC 375:94 or EDUC 375.* Offered each semester.

**EDUC 461/462/463/464 Preservice Student Teaching (8)**

This preservice teaching experience is fulfilled in a public school. The student will have two experiences each lasting seven weeks. Students must request Placement Forms from the Director of Field Experiences the semester prior to Student Teaching. *Prerequisites Passing scores on both Praxis I, VCLA, VRA (if applicable) and Praxis II, and successful completion of all required course work.* Offered each semester.

**SPED 371 (Recommended) Foundations/Legal Issues in Special Education (3)**

Provides an overview of the field of special education. The definition, identification, and characteristics of those who are disabled as well as those students with ADHD and gifted abilities are emphasized. Additional subjects covered include the historical perspectives, models, theories and trends that provide the basis for special education practice, legal issues, the medical aspects of disabilities, the dynamic influence of the family system, cultural/environmental milieu pertinent to education students with exceptionalities, the understanding of ethical issues, and the practice of acceptable standards of professional behavior. Offered each semester.

Visit the college's web site

[www.vwc.edu](http://www.vwc.edu)

Teacher Education Certification Programs

# ACT NOW! BECOME A TEACHER!

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A post-baccalaureate, non-degree,  
evening program for those  
who want to become  
classroom teachers



*Bring a spark. Light a fire.*

*For additional information contact:*

Adult Studies Office  
757-455-3263

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Program Development Coordinator K-12  
757-455-5725

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