Education Department FAQs

Do I have to decide what age or grade level I want to teach when I start taking education classes?

No. The Elementary/Early Childhood Program and the Secondary Program are very similar in the first two semesters. Many students do not decide which area to focus on until the sophomore year.

Do I have to attend classes on campus to complete an Associate’s Degree in Education?

No. If you are in southwest Wyoming, you can complete classes at the local outreach center over compressed video. Some of the classes you will need are also taught live at some outreach centers. Many of the classes in the education program are also taught online. This allows you to complete your degree without leaving home!

If I already have a bachelor’s degree and want to take classes to become a teacher, does WWCC have a program for me?

No. If you already have a bachelor’s degree, you should instead look for a graduate level program that includes teacher licensure/certification. There are many programs like this that would better fit your needs. These programs are often referred to as Post-Baccalaureate Programs.

The University of Wyoming has a program that includes many certification options and has an option for completing a Master’s degree also. Once you have completed the required prerequisite courses, you must take on campus classes for one summer and the following fall and spring. You can explore this program at this link: http://www.uwyo.edu/ted/post-baccalaureate-program/

If you are a site bound student and want to complete teacher licensure/certification without leaving home, there are many distance education options! Look for an accredited university that offers online classes that result in teacher licensure or certification. Most of these programs have the option of also completing a Master’s degree. Many of them can be completed in as little as 18 months!
If the program certifies you in a state other than Wyoming, you will be able to transfer your certification to Wyoming if you want to teach here. There may be a few things that you need to do to get the Wyoming certification, but they will be minimal compared to not being able to complete your certification at all at home. Don’t let that stop you!

If I already have a bachelor’s degree and teaching certification, but want to add another teaching endorsement, does WWCC have a program for me?

No. The classes at WWCC are freshman and sophomore level classes. There are many university distance programs at the graduate level for adding endorsements to your teaching certificate. If you work on an endorsement at the graduate course level, not only will the classes be specifically planned to work together as an endorsement program, but they may also move you further up on the pay scale in your school district.

If I complete a bachelor’s degree with teaching certification, are there jobs available?

While in some states budget cutbacks have resulted in fewer teaching jobs, that does not seem to be the case in Wyoming. In the fall of 2012, the Rock Springs School District hired more than 50 teachers and the Green River School District hired more than 30! Also, remember that there are still many Baby Boomers that are teaching, but may be planning to retire soon.

Am I more likely to get a job in secondary education (grades 6-12) than elementary education (grades K-6)?

Not necessarily. In the hiring cited above in Rock Springs and Green River, both districts hired almost equal amounts of both elementary and secondary teachers.

What teaching positions have the highest need nationally?

Across the United States, the areas most in need of teachers are Secondary (6 – 12 grades) Math, Science (especially Physics), Foreign Language, and K-12 Special Education.

What is the Wyoming Teacher Shortage Loan Repayment Program?

The Wyoming Teacher Shortage Loan Repayment Program provides loans to students at the University of Wyoming in their junior and senior years who are majoring in special education, or secondary mathematics, science or foreign language. If the student then teaches in Wyoming after graduating for the same
amount of time that the student received loans, then the loans are forgiven and never need to be paid back. Go to this link for more information: http://www.uwyo.edu/seced/financial-aid-opportunities/loan-repayment-program.html

**Which universities has WWCC worked with to provide opportunities to finish a Bachelor’s degree without leaving home?**

WWCC has developed agreements with both Regis University and Valley City State University. You can finish more than half of the credits needed for the bachelor’s degree at WWCC and then complete the courses needed for a bachelor’s degree with teacher certification through one of these two universities. Regis has programs for early childhood education, elementary education, and special education (K-12). For more information, go to http://www.wwcc.wy.edu/academics/education/advising.htm.

**Doesn’t the University of Wyoming also have a distance education program for elementary education?**

The university did have this program, but it has now been discontinued and is no longer available.