



#### CONTACT

TLT Program Coordinator  
Lehigh University  
College of Education  
111 Research Drive  
Iacocca Hall, A107  
Bethlehem, PA 18015

Email: [TLTProgram@Lehigh.edu](mailto:TLTProgram@Lehigh.edu)  
Phone: 610-758-3230  
Fax: 610-758-3243

Program Web site:  
[www.lehigh.edu/education/tlt](http://www.lehigh.edu/education/tlt)

# The 5-Year Bachelor's + Master of Education and Pennsylvania Teacher Certification Program

*In just 5 years Lehigh University students can earn their Bachelor's and Master of Education degrees plus Pennsylvania Teacher Certification in Early Elementary or Secondary Education.*

The College of Education's teacher certification and degree programs are built upon the premise that expert teaching occurs at the intersection of discipline-specific knowledge and pedagogical knowledge. Good teachers know what about their subject will be especially hard for new students to master and how to adapt their instruction accordingly. For this reason – and unlike other four-year undergraduate education programs-- our master's-level teacher education program is in addition to (not in place of) the depth and breadth of coursework required to get a complete bachelor's degree in a discipline-specific area.

But if you're getting that bachelor's degree at Lehigh, we can shorten the time it takes for you to add a master's and teacher certification from two years to just one additional year.

Our 5-year Bachelor's plus Master of Education and Teacher Certification Program begins in the spring semester of the sophomore year with a 3-credit initial course in either child development or inclusionary practice. During the junior year, 5-year students take an additional 4 education credits (typically in the fall) in classroom management and practice. In the senior year, students complete a year-long core skills course sequence while also taking two teaching methods courses (12 credits total). After graduating with their bachelor's, students continue their master's and certification program with coursework in the summer (12 credits), fall (9 credits), and round out their experience in the spring with student teaching and the student teaching seminar (3 credits). All of our teacher education courses explore best practices in inclusive and technology-based teaching and learning and are carefully

designed to integrate real-world classroom experiences. The actual number of credits required will vary depending on undergraduate degree and area of certification pursued by the candidate.

We are accredited by the Pennsylvania Department of Education to certify teachers in the following areas:

- Elementary PreK-4
- Environmental Education K-12
- Secondary Biology 7-12
- Secondary Chemistry 7-12
- Secondary Citizenship Education 7-12
- Secondary Earth and Space Science 7-12
- Secondary English 7-12
- Secondary General Science 7-12
- Secondary Mathematics 7-12
- Secondary Physics 7-12
- Secondary Social Sciences 7-12
- Secondary Social Studies 7-12
- Special Education PreK-8 and 7-12 (cannot be initial certification)

Both the early elementary and secondary 5-year programs lead to a Master of Education (M.Ed.) degree with an Instructional I Certificate that qualifies the candidate to teach in the Pennsylvania public schools. Pennsylvania Certification "travels well" and is widely accepted nationwide under reciprocity agreements with many other states. A dual certification option in Special Education is also available for an additional 12-15 credits (depending on grade band of initial certification).

#### APPLYING

Undergraduate students are initially admitted to the University through the regular application process in

## Financial Support

A limited number of scholarships are available to qualified graduate students. Students may also seek funding through University-based assistantships or externally funded projects.

## President's Scholars Program

Students who qualify as a President's Scholar can apply their scholarship toward their fifth year in the graduate College of Education's master's and teacher certification program.

## Application Deadlines

Admission to 5-year program:  
Eligible to apply after first undergraduate semester.

Admission to graduate College of Education: December 1st of senior year.

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## **APPLYING** *(Continued)*

the College of Arts and Sciences, the P.C. Rossin College of Engineering and Applied Science, or the College of Business and Economics and begin the normal course of study to complete their bachelor's degree in their intended major. First-year students with a minimum cumulative 2.75 GPA can apply during their second semester for permission to take education classes in the 5-year program. Those accepted will begin education classes during the second semester of their sophomore year. Although any student can apply to the program, the student's area of certification will be heavily influenced by his/her major and minor. Students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of at least 2.75 each semester and have attained a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 by the end of the fall semester senior year in order to continue on to the fifth year.

By December 1st of the senior year, candidates complete and submit their application for admission to the graduate College of Education in either the Elementary or Secondary Education program. Criteria for admission into further graduate study includes a demonstrated commitment to learning and intellectual growth, an interest in teaching as a career, and some previous experience in working with young people.

## **PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (PDE) REQUIREMENTS FOR TEACHER CERTIFICATION**

It is important for students considering the 5-year Program to be aware of the fairly rigorous academic, health, and personal character requirements for teacher certification that are required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education for teacher candidates statewide:

- A cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0.
- An undergraduate course work audit by content area specialist in the secondary certification area(s)
- Passing scores on the PRAXIS (NTE) Tests (Level I and Intern certificates) in all subject areas prior to student teaching.
- Submission upon matriculation and yearly renewal of all of the following clearances:
  - Mantoux Tuberculosis Screening or chest X-ray
  - FBI Federal Criminal History Record (Act 114)
  - Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Records Check (Act 34)
  - Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance (Act 151)

Before the teacher candidate can be placed in the schools as part of his/her coursework, the Mantoux or chest X-ray must be negative and all 3 required criminal background checks must indicate that "no record exists."

## **FACULTY**

Ten full-time general education and special education faculty work together to offer courses in the teacher education degree programs. Additionally, students benefit from coursework taught by highly qualified adjuncts and COE full-time faculty in other areas such as Counseling Psychology, Educational Leadership, and School Psychology.

**Dr. Linda Bambara**, Professor  
**Dr. MJ Bishop**, Associate Professor  
**Dr. Alec Bodzin**, Professor  
**Dr. Mary Beth Calhoon**, Associate Professor  
**Dr. Ward Mitchell Cates**, Professor

**Dr. H. Lynn Columba**, Associate Professor  
**Dr. Thomas C. Hammond**, Assistant Professor  
**Dr. Lee Kern**, Professor  
**Dr. Minyi Shih**, Assistant Professor  
**Dr. Brenna Wood**, Assistant Professor

**Ms. Donna Toothman**  
Program Coordinator  
College of Education  
111 Research Drive  
Iacocca Hall  
Bethlehem, PA 18015  
(T) 610-758-3230  
(F) 610-758-3243  
E-mail: DJT2@lehigh.edu

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