

Professional Certificate Program

As of September 1, 2000, all beginning teachers and most teachers from out-of-state receive Residency Certificates as their first Washington teaching certificate. Within five years of full time teaching, teachers are expected to enroll in a program to earn the advanced certificate, The Professional Certificate. The ultimate goal of the Professional Certification is to help teachers demonstrate the positive impact they have on student learning while supporting the teacher's continued growth goals.

The Professional Certificate Program starts with a Pre-Assessment Seminar (3 credits), and typically concludes approximately a year and a half later with a Culminating Seminar (2 credits). Between the Pre-Assessment and Culminating Seminars is the program "core": consisting of a 4 credit Summer Seminar and 6 additional credits that have been approved by the Professional Growth Team. The majority of work for all three seminars takes place on Evergreen's Olympia campus. The additional 6 credits can be taken at any college or university, or, if approved and transcriptable, through a school district, ESD, or other professional organization.

PRE-ASSESSMENT SEMINAR

The Pre-Assessment Seminar activities form the first phase of the program and include an orientation to the program and structured self-reflection. During this initial phase of the program professional colleagues help the candidate carefully assess his/her professional capacities, including identifying any that need to be further developed in order to reach the professional certificate standards. The pre-assessment seminar ends with the development of an approved professional growth plan.

SUMMER SEMINAR

In the Summer Seminar an in-depth look is taken at current and critical issues in education that are closely aligned with the Professional Certificate criteria, particularly criteria 5 (cultural sensitivity) and 11 (advocating for the diverse needs of students). The purpose of this summer seminar is for the teacher to reflect deeply on the philosophical underpinnings of their practice, especially as it relates to their current practice and the lives of their students.

CULMINATING SEMINAR

The Culminating Seminar is centered around developing and refining evidence about the candidate's teaching through an electronic portfolio containing video and printed support material. The evidence in the portfolio serves to verify that the candidate has met the Professional Certificate criteria.

CANDIDATES WITH FIVE OR MORE YEARS OF OUT-OF-STATE EXPERIENCE

Candidates who have completed 5 or more years of successful out-of-state certificated teaching prior the beginning the Professional Certificate Program are eligible for the "Advanced Track". Candidates on this track take the Pre-Assessment Seminar, and are involved in the same experiences during this course as those in the regular track — however at the end of this seminar their professional growth team has the optioning of waiving all or some of the remaining professional certificate program requirements.

Tentative Start of the next Pre-Assessment Seminar is January 2007

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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