

TEACHER PREPARATION – FALL 2006

Planning for a Teaching Career

Tidewater Community College is committed to offering leadership in the broad area of teacher preparation by joining with four-year colleges and universities to recruit and educate the next generation of PK-12 teachers. TCC offers the freshman/sophomore level coursework required for teacher certification degrees. The TCC teacher preparation web site:

www.tcc.edu/academics/programs/transfer/teacher provides information that will help students make decisions and plan their academic program at TCC. TCC counselors will help students choose courses needed for the area of teacher certification they wish to pursue.

Deciding whether to pursue a career as a teacher

Making the decision to become a teacher requires considerable study and commitment. Here are some informative web sites that may help you decide:
Virginia Department of Education: www.pen.k12.va.us (select teacher education and licensure)

Tips on Becoming a Teacher: www.adprima.com/tipson.htm

Who Teaches and Why: www.publicagenda.org/specials/teachers/teachers.htm

What to Look for in a Teacher Preparation Program:

www.ncate.org/future/lookfor.htm

National Education Association: www.nea.org/student-program

National Council on Teacher Quality: www.nctq.org

Virginia Education Association: www.veaweteach.org

FALL 2006 Schedule of Classes

SDV 101 -Orientation to Teacher Preparation

1 credit course designed to help students prepare for a teaching career.

SDV 101 W01B – September 8 & 9, 2006 Virginia Beach campus

SDV 101 W02B – October 6 & 7, 2006 Virginia Beach campus

SDV 101 W01C – October 13 & 14, 2006 Chesapeake Campus

SDV 101 W01N - September 22 & 23, 2006 Norfolk campus

SDV 101 W01P – October 13 & 14, 2006 Portsmouth campus

See FALL '06 schedule for more information

Education 200 – Introduction to Teaching as a Profession

3 credit course offered at Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, and Norfolk campuses. This course is the first of the professional education courses required for teacher certification. Prerequisite: sophomore class standing, completion of Eng 111-112.

See FALL '06 course schedule for more information

Deciding What to Teach

- Teaching elementary grades (PK-3 or PK-6 grades certification in Virginia) requires a broad range of knowledge: English, mathematics, science (usually biology, chemistry, physics, and earth science (geology), history U.S. and World), geography, economics, political science, and technology. At least a baccalaureate degree is required and some colleges and universities require completion of a master's degree prior to becoming certified.
- Teaching middle grades (6-8 grades certification in Virginia) requires a broad range of knowledge (similar to that required for elementary grades) plus two content specialization areas chosen from mathematics, English, social sciences, and/or science. At least a baccalaureate degree is required and some colleges and universities require completion of a master's degree prior to becoming certified.
- Teaching secondary school (6-12 grades certification in Virginia) requires at least a baccalaureate degree in a subject area (English, English/Speech, mathematics, history/social sciences, biology, chemistry, earth sciences, computer science, physics, technology, trade, and industrial arts, business, marketing, and food and family life).
- Teaching health and physical education, foreign languages, art, music, and theatre are PK-12 grades certification in Virginia.
- Teaching special education requires a broad range of knowledge similar to that of PK-6 teachers and specialization in emotional/behavioral disorders, learning disabilities, mental retardation, early childhood special education, hearing impairment, speech and language disorders, or severe profound disabilities.

What are the Critical Shortage Teaching Areas in Virginia

The Virginia Department of Education web site lists the following as the top 10 critical shortage teaching areas for 2005-2006:

Earth Science, Mathematics (grades 6-12 and Algebra I add-on), Special Education (PK-12, all areas), Career and Technical Education, History & Social Science (grades 6-12), Elementary Education (PK-6 – serious shortage in grade 5), Health & Physical Education (PK – 12), Reading (graduate level), English as a Second Language, and Computer Science (grades 6-12).

Understanding the Academic and Personal Demands Involved in Preparing to Teach:

Teaching is a profession that requires competence in writing, reading, mathematics, science, technology, humanities, social sciences, speech, and health. As a teacher, you will be a communicator, conveyor of information, evaluator, classroom manager, counselor, member of many teams and groups, decision-maker, role-model, and surrogate parent. All of these roles require practice and skill, as well as the appropriate temperament, skills, and personality.

Teaching, like many professions, requires **licensure testing**. Prospective teachers are tested using the **Praxis** series. **Praxis I** assesses reading, writing, and math and is usually required prior to enrolling as an education major at senior institutions. **Praxis II** tests subject area competency and is taken prior to receiving teaching certification.

Go to www.ets.org/praxis for detailed information about this test. TCC recommends that students complete all lower-level (freshman/sophomore) academic requirements, especially those involving mathematics, English, and reading, before taking **Praxis I**. Information about PRAXIS Tutorial Programs and Resources are available in the counseling offices at each campus. Praxis I (or acceptable SAT or ACT scores) must be submitted to the Department of Education at your transfer institution prior to enrolling. You cannot be officially admitted into the School of Education until scores are received.

On March 24, 2004, the Virginia Board of Education approved using **SAT** scores as a substitute test for **Praxis I**. If the **SAT** test was taken after April 1, 1995, the person must have a combined score of 1100 with at least 530 on the verbal test and 530 on the mathematics test. If the **SAT** was taken before April 1, 1995, the person must have a combined score of 1000 with at least 450 on the verbal test and 510 on the mathematics test. Educational Testing Services (ETS) keeps all scores on file indefinitely. If it has been more than one year since your high school graduation, you can have your scores reported by calling (609)771-7600, during business hours Monday through Friday. A Customer Service Representative will help you.

On September 27, 2004, the Virginia Board of Education approved using **ACT** scores as a substitute test for **Praxis I**. If the **ACT** was taken after April 1, 1995, the person must have a composite score of 24 with the **ACT** mathematics score no less than 22 and an **ACT** English Plus Reading score no less than 46. If the **ACT** was taken before April 1, 1995, the person must have a composite score of 21, with the **ACT** mathematics score no less than 21, and an **ACT** English and Reading score no less than 37.

Passing scores on **PRAXIS II** in the teaching content area are required for licensure. This test is usually completed prior to beginning the student teaching phase of the teacher education program. Go to www.ets.org/praxis for more information about the PRAXIS II requirement.

Computer-Based Testing is available at Virginia Wesleyan College: http://www.vwc.edu/library_resources/testcenter/ or at Prometric Testing Center in Newport News (757)873-0208.

The Virginia Department of Education requires successful scores on The **Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA)** for licensure. See www.vcla.nesinc.com/ for more information about this licensure requirement.

The Virginia Reading Assessment (VRA) is required for PK-6 endorsement and is taken after Reading and Language Acquisition coursework is completed near the end of your licensure program. See www.vra.nesinc.com for more information about this licensure requirement.

Many senior institutions require a grade-point average of at least 2.75 (on a 4.0 scale) for students pursuing teacher certification. Completing some degree requirements may require that you be available during “school day” hours. After you receive licensure, you will be required to renew certification periodically by completing courses to maintain currency and skill.

Virginia Troops to Teachers Program

This program offers referral service and financial assistance to military and military spouses. For more information: www.odu.edu/troopstoteachers or call (800)560-4317.

Those who are interested in becoming Level V or VI Program Administrators as determined by the Smart Beginnings South Hampton Roads Coalition, should complete the Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood Development program.

An articulation agreement with Norfolk State University enables TCC students that complete the AAS degree in Early Childhood Development to complete twenty-nine additional credits in general education at TCC. At NSU, 29 additional credits are required for the B.S. in Early Childhood Development, Child Care Option. This program provides a career path for an advanced level of professional development in childcare. (This degree DOES NOT lead to licensure in the public school systems.)

Norfolk State University Advisors for this NSU degree program:

Mona Bryant-Shanklin, Ph.D
Mmbryant-shanklin@nsu.edu
823-8280

Leon Rouson, Ph.D.
lrouson@nsu.edu
823-2260

Career Switcher Alternative Route to Licensure programs are designed for bachelor degree holders interested in becoming teachers

Information is available through the Department of Education web site: www.pen.k12.va.us, select Teacher Education and Licensure, then go to Career Switcher Alternative Route to Licensure link.

TCC is a partner with the Virginia Community College System Career Switcher Program. This program is designed to address critical teacher shortage areas in mathematics, science, foreign language, and English as a Second Language. Use the VCCS Career Switcher Program web-site: www.vccs.edu/workforce/ for detailed information about this program. Regional advisor for this program is Carole Ballard @ cballard@tcc.edu.

Teacher Education departments at Norfolk State University, Old Dominion University, Regent University, and Virginia Wesleyan College will assist bachelor degree holders in determining teaching certification requirements. For Norfolk State University: Dr. Arletha McSwain, amcswain@nsu.edu
For Old Dominion University: Dr. Leigh Butler, lbutler@odu.edu
For Regent University: Dr. Carla Bergdoll, edadvising@regent.edu
For Virginia Wesleyan College: Mr. Thomas Farley, tfarley@vwc.edu

Tidewater Community College Teacher Preparation Counselors

Chesapeake Campus: Rita Barnes rbarnes@tcc.edu

Norfolk Campus: Carolyn Williams tcwilliw@tcc.edu

Portsmouth Campus: Patti Saffioti psaffioti@tcc.edu

Virginia Beach Campus: Carole Ballard cballard@tcc.edu