CWU Mathematics / Science / Teach STEM – Des Moines Frequently Asked Questions

See the most up-to-date information on our website: www.cwu.edu/teachstem/des-moines

Program Logistics

1. When are the class meeting times? During the day three days per week (weekdays TBD). Each quarter may vary slightly within these times. Additional field hours outside of class are required but their location can be individually arranged with your Teach STEM program advisor. Additional online work will be required in some courses.

2. How long does it take to finish the program? Six quarters: 5 quarters with course work in Des Moines and 1 quarter of student teaching, location arranged.

3. Does this program include summers? No. Students who are conditionally admitted because they are missing prerequisites may need to take these courses during the summer.

4. Is there an application deadline? The priority application deadline is April 1. Students that apply after that may be accepted if space is available.

5. Do I need to send my transcripts to CWU, or can they get them from Highline? Transcripts need to be sent to CWU’s Admissions Office: 400 E University Way Ellensburg WA 98926. CWU cannot request them on behalf of a student.

6. What type of degree do I need for this program? A DTA from a community college.

7. What prerequisite courses do I need to take? Equivalents to CWU’s MATH 130*, 154, 206, 226, and SCED 101, SCED 102*, SCED 103*, and PHYS 101*. These courses can all be completed as part of several different DTAs. Courses marked with an asterisk (*) are recommended prerequisites but may be completed during the first year of the program if needed, must self-arrange. MATH130 is also available online through CWU. See details and equivalencies at each community college on our website.

8. Do I need a foreign language? Not if you have a DTA. For this and any other BA degrees at CWU, students need two years of a foreign language in high school or a DTA transfer degree. Otherwise, students will need to complete a year of a foreign language through CWU.

9. Is this program competitive? How many students are allowed to take this program? Not at this time. We admit up to 24 students per year.

10. Does this program only start in the fall? Yes

11. Do I have to go to Ellensburg for any of this program? No, the courses are held in Des Moines with select coursework being offered online.
12. Is there a minimum GPA required for this program? Yes, all CWU programs leading to teacher certification require a 3.0 GPA to be fully admitted to the Teacher Certification Program, as well as a 3.0 GPA and C or above grade in every course to graduate.

13. Am I able to get only Math/only Science endorsement? Students seeking both endorsements will have highest priority admittance. This program prepares you to be an excellent middle level math AND science teacher. Math is the language of science and science provides a context for mathematics. Many schools are moving to a more STEM-integrated curriculum; duel STEM endorsements sets you apart from other candidates. Doing both endorsements takes no extra time, adds no tuition cost, and will make you a better teacher in either math or science. Talk to an advisor immediately if you are planning to do only the mathematics or science endorsement with an elementary education major or any other reason you cannot do both endorsements.

14. Can I attend this program part time? This program has been designed as a full-time program leading to degree and certification in two years, but if you cannot attend full time talk with a program advisor about your options.

15. I already have a Math/Science degree, can I use some of those classes towards the degree? Possibly. An evaluation of your credits will be completed and then the remaining necessary courses will be determined.

16. Is this program online? Not entirely, but some courses are online (no more than one per quarter) and most have have online components.

17. Is there daycare available? There is no daycare center on site, but there are a few providers around campus that are not affiliated with either Highline College or CWU.

18. Do I have to go to Ellensburg for graduation? (commencement) No, CWU has a westside commencement in Kent.

19. How much does it cost to park? Permits are required. Parking on campus costs $46 per quarter or $2 per day, as of 2018.

20. Will I get to practice what I am learning in a real classroom? Yes, definitely. You will have a mentored field experience every quarter. These experiences will progress from teaching individual lessons to teaching entire units to being in charge of a classroom.

Costs and Hirability

21. How much is tuition? Tuition is the full time rate for CWU University Centers. This was $2386.46 plus $138 in student fees per quarter, totaling $7464.23 per year in 2018-2019. An updated program cost breakdown can be found on our website.

22. Are there any additional fees to this program? Yes, see list below for 2018-2019 and the most up to date information on our website. If you quality for financial aid, you can apply for waivers through CWU Teacher Certification to offset much of these costs.
a. WEST B $155 (before or early in quarter 1 or may have qualifying ACT/SAT scores)
b. Fingerprinting $68.50 (first week of quarter 1, good for two years)
c. Insurance $7.12 (first week of quarter 1 and first week of quarter 4)
d. NES $95 for Middle Grades – Math and $95 for Middle Grades – Science (quarter 5)
e. edTPA $300 (quarter 6)
f. CWU Graduation $50 (quarter 6)
g. OSPI/Certification $74 (quarter 6)
h. Course fees (no waiver available) $220 (year 1), $70 (year 2)

23. Are there any scholarships available? Good news! Students entering the program may be eligible for the Washington Opportunity Scholarship (WA residents), the federal Teach Grant (commit to teaching in high needs schools), and the state Teacher Shortage Conditional Grant. Students in the final year of the program are eligible for CWU’s Elliot and Howard Family scholarships, as well as the Student Teaching Residency Grant program. Information on these scholarships can be found at: www.cwu.edu/teachstem/scholarships.

24. What types of jobs can I get with this degree? You graduate with teaching endorsement in middle level math and science (grades 4-9). Thus, the program is primarily designed for teaching at the middle school level, but other jobs in the math and science fields may be attainable.

25. What is the starting salary for these endorsements? Teacher salaries are negotiated locally for each school district and pay varies widely across the state. Starting base salaries (no benefits or bonuses included) range $37,000 to $50,000+. These endorsements are both listed on the state teacher shortage list and are thus very hirable. Teacher salary is publically available, so if you know someone who has been recently hired to a similar position in the district you want to work in, you can look up their base salary: http://fiscal.wa.gov/DVK12Salaries. It is also useful to look at the Collective Bargaining Agreement for a district, which can be found on the district web site.

Teacher Certification

26. Do I have to be fully admitted to the Teacher Certification program before I start? No, students can enroll for the first quarter without being fully admitted to Teacher Certification and apply for admittance during that first quarter.

27. What are the Teacher Certification Program requirements? Requirements to be fully admitted to the Teacher Certification Program are:
   i. Online application to the CWU School of Education
   j. Online Character and Fitness Supplement form
   k. 3.0 GPA for the last 45 graded quarter credits
   l. Unofficial transcripts from all colleges/universities attended showing completion of certain general education requirements (DTA covers these).
   m. Satisfy basic skills (reading, writing, math) through WEST-B, SAT, or ACT.
For more information, see [http://www.cwu.edu/teacher-certification/admission-requirements-undergrad-and-post-bac-candidates](http://www.cwu.edu/teacher-certification/admission-requirements-undergrad-and-post-bac-candidates).

28. What happens if I can’t pass the WEST B? Teacher Certification also uses SAT/ACT scores, so checking if you’ve qualified with those scores first is a great starting point. Otherwise, work with your advisor, and utilize the CWU writing and math centers to practice and study with their available materials.