Supplemental Guidance for Out-of-State NJ Candidates Attending WCU

While WCU is a PA-approved education preparation program (EPP) provider, many out-of-state NJ Candidates choose to attend WCU. Although the NJ Department of Education cannot approve out-of-state certification programs due to the possibility of requirements changing, The College of Education and Social Work would like to share some knowledge based on information we’ve gathered from alumni and colleagues.

If you would like to enroll and complete an EPP at WCU and eventually apply for certification in NJ – please keep reading these tips:

* Tip 1: PA grade bands may differ compared to NJ or other states. For example, PA offers a Grades PK-4 grade band, whereas NJ offers Preschool – Grade 3 and Elementary School K-6. The PA Grades PK-4 is equivalent to the NJ Preschool through Grade 3. PA provides the option for a Grades 5-6 add-on via testing, which helps allow candidates to apply in NJ for the K-6 via [reciprocity](https://www.nj.gov/education/certification/reciprocity/index.shtml). Candidates are encouraged to apply for and receive their PA certificates first as it will facilitate a smoother transition to NJ!
* Tip 2: If you plan to seek a Special Education cert in NJ, then it is strongly suggested that you double major (i.e., Early Grades Preparation PK-4, BSED **and** Special Education PK-12, BSED) as Special Education does not ‘stand-alone’ in NJ.
* Tip 3: NJ has its own certification system called [NJEdCert](https://njedcert.doe.nj.gov/) for candidates to create accounts to submit questions and communicate directly with customer service staff. Customer Service may also be reached at 609-292-2070. There are separate fees to apply in NJ and other states!
* Tip 4: When it comes time to apply in NJ, move forward by applying for the Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing (CEAS) credential as that is issued to an individual who HAS completed a teacher preparation program. As of December 16, 2022, NJ Governor Phil Murphy signed S896 w/GR into law, which prohibits the State Board of Education from requiring completion of a Commissioner-approved performance-based assessment (edTPA in NJ) for certification. If a candidate completed an educator preparation program, culminating with a clinical practice at WCU, then candidates may now apply for the CEAS.
* Tip 5: Please work with the Office of Certification in the CESW Dean’s Office for support with program verification forms. When filling out the program completion section during the NJEdCert application process, please use [cesw@wcupa.edu](mailto:cesw@wcupa.edu) as the “Institution Email” address.

Licensure and certification in each state is multi-layered with a series of steps. We are happy to help in the adventure!

College of Education and Social Work

Office of Certification

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