

## GRADUATE STUDIES FACT SHEET

### SCHOOL HEALTH

#### MASTER OF EDUCATION IN SCHOOL HEALTH

West Chester University's graduate degree in school health is designed for health educators, physical educators, school nurses, and elementary-level teachers. The master of education degree provides advanced knowledge and skills for school professionals responsible for the development, delivery, and evaluation of K–12 school health education programs. Faculty create a dynamic, interactive, and experiential learning environment so students have the opportunity to create health education projects for application in a school setting. Course content and projects are designed around current trends in health education, education reform in teaching and assessment, and practical skills needed for today's health educator. It is important to note that the master of education degree in health does not offer K–12 teacher certification in health education; rather, this is an advanced degree for school professionals with K–12 certification.

#### PROGRAM OF STUDY

The master of education degree consists of 33 credits which includes two core courses in K–12 health education curriculum and coordinated school health programs, 18 elective credits in health content and skill-based courses, six credits in education and/or counseling electives, and a three-credit culminating project based on one's area of interest in school health education and responsibilities in the school setting.

#### COURSE COMPETENCIES

All courses involve students in creating projects, resources, and products for immediate use in a K–12 setting for

planning, teaching, and assessing health education. The classes will provide students with current content and skills in health education, which they can apply to their current school setting. The curriculum will emphasize the following themes:

- Research-based and theory-driven health education programs and curricula
- Appropriate, relevant, and useful materials and resources for planning, teaching, and assessing K–12 health education
- Current issues and trends that impact K–12 health education in today's schools
- The application and impact of education reform issues on K–12 health education
- Best practice for planning, teaching, and assessing health education in schools
- Strategies for integrating health education across academic disciplines
- Implications and application of standard-based education and assessment
- Current health content and critical skills for healthy behaviors in school-aged youth
- Role of the coordinated school health program for academic success and a healthy lifestyle

#### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for the master of education degree in school health, applicants need to meet the requirements of the WCU graduate study policy. Applicants will typically have an undergraduate degree in health education, health and physical education, school nursing, or elementary education, as well as possess K–12 teacher certification in one of these areas. The GRE is not required for admission into the program.

Applicants should submit the following materials to the Office of Graduate Studies and Extended Education:

- Completed graduate application, including goals statement (apply online at [www.wcupa.edu/grad](http://www.wcupa.edu/grad))
- Two letters of recommendation
- Transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate courses
- Resume

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Write: Office of Graduate Studies and Extended Education  
McKelvie Hall  
102 West Rosedale Avenue  
West Chester University  
West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-2943

Fax: 610-436-2763

E-mail: [gradstudy@wcupa.edu](mailto:gradstudy@wcupa.edu)

Web: [www.wcupa.edu/grad](http://www.wcupa.edu/grad)

Visit: [www.facebook.com/wcugrad](http://www.facebook.com/wcugrad)

*Or contact the department:*

Write: Dr. Bethann Cinelli, Chair  
Department of Health  
Sturzebecker Health Sciences  
Center 211  
West Chester University  
West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-2931

Fax: 610-436-2860

E-mail: [bcinelli@wcupa.edu](mailto:bcinelli@wcupa.edu)

Web: [www.wcupa.edu/\\_academics/healthsciences/health/med-sh.asp](http://www.wcupa.edu/_academics/healthsciences/health/med-sh.asp)

The Graduate Catalog is available online at [www.wcupa.edu/\\_information/official.documents/graduate.catalog/](http://www.wcupa.edu/_information/official.documents/graduate.catalog/).

#### ABOUT GRADUATE STUDIES

West Chester University offers high-quality

graduate degrees in more than 70 disciplines or areas of study, as well as certificate and certification programs. The graduate studies program has grown remarkably since its introduction in 1960. West Chester University's program is the largest within the 14 institutions in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education enrolling more than 2,100 graduate students.

Programs can be taken on a part-time basis, and most of the graduate classes are scheduled during late afternoons and evenings for the benefit of in-service teachers and other employed persons.

## ABOUT WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

A regional, public institution, West Chester University of Pennsylvania offers high-quality

undergraduate and graduate degrees, as well as certification and certificate programs, in more than 100 subject areas. As the second largest member of the State System of Higher Education, West Chester offers a full and rewarding educational experience as well as reasonable tuition.

With a rich heritage dating back to the 19th century, West Chester University was founded in 1871 as West Chester Normal School for the purpose of training teachers for the Commonwealth's newly established public schools. In 1960, West Chester State Teachers College expanded its programs to include liberal arts and graduate degrees and, as a result, dropped "Teachers" from its name. In 1983, West Chester State College became one of the 14 institutions in the State System of Higher Education. Along

with its university status, the school acquired a new system of governance and the opportunity to expand its degree programs.

Today, more than 15,400 graduate and undergraduate students, as well as 1,500 faculty and staff, study and work on the 406-acre campus. Situated in the Borough of West Chester, the campus is a picturesque mix of Gothic, Victorian, and modern architecture with pleasant, tree-shaded walks.

Strategically located at the center of the mid-Atlantic corridor, West Chester University is just 25 miles west of Philadelphia and 17 miles north of Wilmington, Del. The campus is convenient to major cultural institutions, recreational activities, and commercial businesses, many of which provide internship opportunities for WCU's students.

