

CWU Middle Level Mathematics Education / Middle Level Science Education / STEM Teaching

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?** Weekdays, a combination of online and in person classes. 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 with all pre-requisites completed: Five quarters with course work in Des Moines and one 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.

Application and Prerequisites

4. **Is there an application deadline?** The priority application deadline is February 1. CWU utilizes a rolling application deadline, meaning you may apply up until the first day of classes (not recommended, but doable).
5. **Do I need to send my transcripts to CWU, or can they get them from my community college/previous college?** Official transcripts need to be ordered and 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?** The Math Major course equivalents to CWU's MATH 154, 164, 211, 226. 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. See details and equivalencies at each community college on our website. Talk with the Teach STEM advisor to arrange your prerequisite plan.

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?** Not at this time. We launched in Des Moines in 2019 and are working to recruit and get the word out about our program.

10. **How many students are allowed to take this program?** We admit up to 24 students per year.

11. **Does this program only start in the fall?** Yes, you are part of a cohort model for the two years, so it's important that everyone starts together. The cohort model has many benefits, primarily so you can build relationships with other peer teachers to have a support system during the program and when you enter the education profession as new teachers.

12. **Do I have to go to Ellensburg for any of this program?** No, the courses are held in Des Moines, WA at Highline College with select coursework being offered online.

13. **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.

14. **Am I able to get only Math OR only Science endorsement?** No, you will complete all three majors leading to endorsements in Middle Level Math and Science as well as Teacher Certification in Washington State.

15. **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.

16. **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. Talk with an advisor to learn more.

17. **Is this program online?** It is a hybrid program combining some online and some in person classes. The field experience is only possible in person.

18. **Is 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.

19. **Is housing available?** Yes, Highline College offers [campus housing](#) to CWU-Des Moines students.

20. **What other amenities** does Highline College offer to CWU-Des Moines's students? The campus has a gym/fitness center, library, tutoring, food bank, and student center.

21. **Do I have to go to Ellensburg for graduation (commencement)?** No, CWU has a Westside commencement.

22. **How much does it cost to park on campus?** Permits are required. Parking on campus costs \$49 per quarter or \$2 per day, as of June 2023.

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

24. **Do I need to take any tests to apply?** You must take the West-B exam before the program starts. You may be able to apply your SAT/ACT scores to substitute for the West-B test.

Costs and Getting Hired

25. **How much is tuition?** Tuition is the full time rate for CWU University Centers. This was **\$2,632 per quarter** (with student fees) totaling **\$7,896 per year plus \$500 in fees (listed below)** in 2021-2022.

26. **Are there any additional fees to this program?** Yes, see list below for 2022-2023 fees. If you qualify for financial aid, you can apply for waivers through CWU Teacher Certification to offset some of these costs.

Additional Fees

Year 1 Total= Approximately \$500

West B Test	\$96 (before or early in quarter 1 or may have qualifying ACT/SAT scores)
Fingerprinting	\$85.75 (first week of quarter 1, good for two years)
Insurance	\$10 (first week of quarter 1 and first week of quarter 4)
Books and Course Fees	\$50-200 per quarter
Parking	\$49 per quarter= \$150/year total

Year 2 Total= Approximately \$500

Insurance	\$10 (first week of quarter 1 and first week of quarter 4)
Books and Course Fees	\$50-200 per quarter
Parking	\$49 per quarter= \$150/year total
NES Test	\$95 for Middle Grades – Math & \$95 for Middle Grades – Science (quarter 5)
OSPI/WA State Teacher Certification	\$74 (quarter 6)
CWU Graduation	\$60 (quarter 5)

27. **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 [here](#).

28. **What types of jobs can I get with this degree?** You graduate with teaching endorsements 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.

29. **What is the starting salary for these endorsements?** The starting salary in Seattle Public Schools for 2022-2023 school year was \$63,000. With a Master’s degree it was \$76,000. With **the recent McCleary decision in Washington State, teacher salaries are becoming the highest in the nation.** Teacher salaries are negotiated locally for each school district and pay varies widely across the state. [Starting salaries range \\$43,000 to \\$52,000, and STEM fields can exceed the district cap by 10%.](#) The middle level math and science endorsements are both listed on the [state teacher shortage list](#) and are thus very hireable. 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. 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

30. **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.

31. What are the Teacher Certification Program requirements? Requirements to be fully admitted to the Teacher Certification Program are:

- h. Online application to the CWU Teacher Certification
- j. 3.0 GPA for the last 45 graded quarter credits
- k. Unofficial transcripts from all colleges/universities attended showing completion of certain general education requirements (DTA covers these).
- l. Satisfy basic skills (reading, writing, math) through WEST-B, SAT, or ACT.

For more information, see [CWU Teacher Certification](#)

32. 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, Teacher Certification checks for grades above a C in your Quantitative Reasoning (math) and Academic Writing (English) classes. If you have a C or better, regardless of how you do on the exam, you have satisfied the requirement.