Certification Programs

Cooperative Education

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School personnel interested in teaching and supervising students in work-based settings in Pennsylvania must be certified in Cooperative Education. This certification covers a variety of work-based settings for secondary students, including capstone programs, diversified occupations programs, shadowing experiences, work experience programs, internships, and job shadowing. The skill and knowledge included in this certification program also has application to post-secondary and adult settings.

Persons wishing to become teachers of cooperative education must apply to the program and provide information about their education and experiential backgrounds. Based on the information provided, a program of studies, which includes an internship, is prepared. Persons who enter this program holding a valid teaching certificate will work toward earning an "add-on" certificate in Cooperative Education, while others will work toward a "stand-alone" certificate. Persons wishing to enroll in this program should contact an advisor.

Career & Technical Certification Program

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This curriculum, which is offered in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Education, is designed to prepare in-service teachers of career and technical education (industrial) subjects at the secondary, post-secondary, and 2-year college levels in public and private schools. Career and Technical Teacher Education courses may be taken on three levels: certification, undergraduate, and graduate. Persons who meet statutory requirements and who have at least two years of work experience beyond the learning period in a trade, technical, or other selected occupation may prepare for certification to teach occupational subjects or related classes in secondary schools in Pennsylvania.

Certification students must apply and be admitted to the Industrial (Career and Technical) Education Certification Program. All certification students must meet the requirements for admission to the university. In addition, candidates must satisfy the departmental requirements for work experience and must have passed the required Occupational Competency Assessment. Students must also pass Praxis I computer-based tests before receiving the Vocational Intern Teaching Certificate. This program prepares the student for career and technical teacher certification in Pennsylvania and, in general, is acceptable in other states. Work taken toward the certification objective may be applied to the undergraduate degree program. The courses are offered on a part-time basis for those who are employed on an Intern credential. Completing 18 semester hours of approved coursework and passing the occupational competency examination will permit the issuance of a Vocational Instructional I Certificate, which is valid for six years.

Upon receipt of the Vocational Instructional I certificate, the student must complete an additional 60 s.h. of college work, earning a minimum of 6 semester hours of credit per year until the requirements for permanent certification (78 s.h. and three years successful teaching) are satisfied.

Persons wishing to enroll in this program should contact an advisor.