ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

Together, faculty and students in the Department of Education engage in the interdisciplinary inquiry of the processes and institutions by which societies enculturate, socialize, and educate their youth, an inquiry that is grounded in the liberal arts and enables students to become citizen leaders and lifelong learners.

TEACHER CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

The Department offers teacher certification programs in Elementary and Secondary Education. The Elementary program, for students wishing to teach grades 1-6, requires an academic major, usually in Human Development, selected core courses, and a sequence of Education courses and field experiences. The Secondary program is for those wishing to teach in middle and high schools. Students can major and be certified in biology, business, chemistry, computer science, English, environmental science, mathematics, physics, and social studies (for grades 7-12), as well as art, French, German, music, and Spanish (for grades PreK-12).

SECONDARY EDUCATION MINOR

The minor in Secondary Education Studies offers students the opportunity to enhance their major studies and, through exposure to the philosophies and practical application of Education, be prepared to take on the challenges of their chosen profession. The minor can also help students gain awareness of how people work and learn—and help students communicate clearly and effectively.

The Secondary Education Studies minor is for students who are interested in educating, but who might not want to complete a full-time teaching internship. Students interested in non-traditional teaching (outdoor, environmental, or museum education), other school-based careers (guidance counselor or school psychologist), graduate school, or other people-oriented careers can benefit from this minor.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT MAJOR

The Human Development major is designed to help students answer the question “How do children develop into fully mature, autonomous, and self-aware human beings who are capable of both intimate and public communal relationships?”

These studies will facilitate an understanding of the development of children in our multifaceted society within the comprehensive liberal arts foundation of the Washington College experience. The Human Development major provides the opportunity to enlarge our understanding of the development of school-aged youth.

The academic program includes sequenced study in educational foundations (the history, philosophy, and psychology of education), a developmental progression of study in pedagogical theory and practice, a demonstrated knowledge of content in selected liberal arts disciplines, and multidisciplinary courses from the departments of Anthropology, Sociology, and Psychology.

The major provides:

- A comprehensive, liberal arts-based preparation for prospective elementary school teachers, and
- An interdisciplinary program for students who wish to examine human development in the context of theory and practice in education, but who do not wish to seek teacher certification.

INFORMAL LEARNING

We offer a variety of opportunities for students who want to be informal educators, from traditional courses to field work, internships, and opportunities to study and research abroad, which provide the opportunity for students to think about the theory and practice of informal education. Students will study the foundations of teaching and learning, best practices for design and assessment, and how to engage a diversity of learners.

Photographed: Iz Clemens ’19
Photo Credit: Chris Cerino
WHY EDUCATION AT WASHINGTON COLLEGE?

What We Do

We educate those who want to become citizen-leaders and life-long learners. They might want to teach in public or private schools in our country or around the world. They might want to be educators in a museum, historical society, park, or zoo. They might want to do conservation education or environmental outreach. What they all have in common is our foundation in the liberal arts, our inquiry- and experience-based coursework, and our shared purpose and passion.

What Our Graduates Do

Teach.
- public and private schools
- Pre-K through college

Attend graduate school.
- content-driven degrees
- degrees in education: higher education, biology education, early childhood education, English as a Second Language, environmental education, special education
- law school
- sustainable development

Educate in informal settings.
- Disney’s Animal Kingdom
- Georgia Sea Turtle Center
- Echo Hill Outdoor School
- Rose Hill Manor Park and Museums
- Carnegie Museum of Natural History
- Ohio State Parks
- informational technology centers

Coach.
- all levels and sports
- school affiliated teams
- town/city recreational teams

Teach abroad.
- Micronesia
- China
- Taiwan
- Dominican Republic
- Semester at Sea

Fun Facts
- 100% of our teaching interns (Classes of 2018 and 2019) who applied for full-time teaching jobs have them.
- 100% of the faculty in the Department have been classroom teachers.
- We are the only institution in Maryland to offer a path to certification in Environmental Science and an undergraduate path to certification in Computer Science.
- Our students present research at local, state, and even national and international conferences.
- In our studies on informal education, we participate in trips around the mid-Atlantic region to museums, zoos, and other institutions.
- Our students are immersed in the local schools through our strong Professional Development School (PDS) relationships.
- Our students often participate in programs that allow them to teach and learn about schooling abroad. Some have recently traveled to Tanzania and Finland.
- Three of our students researched and learned about museum education in Belize last summer!

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Anna Melvin Hague ’05 Memorial Scholarship Award

Anna Hague, Class of 1905, was one of the first women to graduate from Washington College. Anna taught in the Kent County Public Schools and became a principal before World War II. She retired in 1955. The scholarship fund was established in 1992 by Anna’s son and daughter-in-law, Charles ‘38 and Virginia Hague ‘40, of Millington, Maryland.

This award is presented each year to “the junior student whose demonstrated qualities of scholarship, character, and dedication, in the judgment of the Washington College Department of Education, will make the most effective contribution to the field of public education.”

Education Honor Society: Pi Lambda Theta

With a diversified membership welcoming those interested and involved in a multitude of teaching and learning endeavors (not just K–12 public schools), this honor society provides ongoing service, professional development, socials, and organizational leadership opportunities for its members.