

## **Wesleyan ARC Partnership for Teacher Certification**

Note: All information here is provided as a courtesy. Details may be changed without notice. Please take the time to confirm details if you plan to apply. Please notify Wesleyan faculty in the Minor in Education Studies to report errors or updates.

### **OVERVIEW**

The ARC – Alternative Route to Certification – program in Connecticut is run by the State Office of Higher Education. The program provides a pathway for people with a Bachelor’s degree in a subject, rather than a BA in education, to receive teacher training and initial teacher certification in the State of Connecticut. While the program was initially designed in 1986 to help mid-career professionals to switch careers and become public school teachers, Wesleyan has created a partnership with ARC so that Wesleyan students can combine their university studies with the ARC training and certified to teach in Connecticut’s K-12 public schools.

### **USEFUL WEBSITES**

State of CT ARC program: <https://www.ctohe.org/ARC/>  
Wesleyan Graduate Liberal Studies Program (GLSP): <http://www.wesleyan.edu/masters/>  
Wesleyan Minor in Education Studies: <http://www.wesleyan.edu/cse/index.html>

### **DETAILS**

#### **What is the content of the ARC training?**

The ARC program offers a competency-based training with three main components: core areas (instruction, assessment, etc), subject-based methods (sciences, world languages, etc), and a teacher practicum. The program focuses on high-needs shortage areas in the state.

*From the website: The ARC program offers subject-based methods classes and training in areas such as Common Core State Standards, classroom management, differentiated instruction, lesson and unit planning, assessment of student learning, special education and Section 504, English Language learners, and integrating technology in the classroom. ARC students observe classrooms and work with team-trained cooperating teachers and ARC evaluators during their student practicum experience.*

*ARC prepares candidates for certification in Grade 7-12 English, mathematics, the sciences (biology, chemistry, earth science, general science and physics), K-12 world languages, family and consumer sciences, technology education, and music. Areas of certification training are subject to change depending on student interest and shortage areas. ARC does not, however, provide certification training in elementary education, art, history/social studies or special education.*

#### **What if I majored in a subject that is not in one of the high-needs fields?**

It is worth talking to the ARC office about counting coursework in a subject area, even if you did not complete a major in that subject. Additionally, some high-needs subject areas, such as TESOL, do not correspond to a specific major. Please contact the ARC office with your transcript and they can advise you about which certification areas are open to you.

### **What is the structure of the ARC training?**

ARC training takes place in Hartford every weekend on Friday evenings and all day Saturday, for a full year. It is the student's responsibility to look at the calendar and plan ahead for times when ARC might be meeting during periods when Wesleyan is on break. During a six-week period in the spring (March 26-May 7 in 2018), students complete a full-time student teaching practicum in a public school.

### **How much does ARC cost?**

The 2017-18 fee is \$5,000. However, if students combine ARC with a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) from Wesleyan's Graduate Liberal Studies program, they may be eligible to receive a special GLS scholarship that roughly equals the \$5,000 ARC tuition (currently the scholarship is slightly higher). See below for details. The ARC program is not eligible for student loans but there is a limited amount of grant funding. GLS degree candidates are eligible for student loans or need-based financial aid.

### **How and when can Wesleyan students participate?**

There are a variety of options for students.

(1) Senior year option: The Wesleyan-ARC program enables students to apply to ARC in their junior year provided they are on schedule toward the BA, and to complete the ARC program during their senior year. Note that students will have to clear their schedules during the six-week period in the spring semester in order to participate in teacher training.

To accommodate the student teaching period, students might plan to stay on campus only to complete theses, or complete major and graduation requirements ahead of time and just complete two credits in the spring with flexible timing (e.g., independent study tutorials or courses that are only offered in the first half of the semester).

*NB: Wesleyan is working on developing more robust options for students who wish to complete ARC in their senior year; please let the supervising faculty of the Minor in Education Studies know if you are interested in this pathway (currently Anna Shusterman or Steve Stemler, both in Psychology). The more students are interested, the easier it is to create options.*

(2) Fifth year option: Students can apply to ARC in their senior year and complete the program in the year following graduation. Students could complement their time in ARC by seeking employment, complete a BA/MA with a faculty advisor, or complete an MALS degree through Wesleyan's Graduate Liberal Studies (GLS) program. Any option is fine as long as the student is free to complete the teaching practicum during the spring.

(3) Delayed option: Students who complete the ARC program can return to Wesleyan to complete their MALS degree in GLS to take advantage of the GLSP tuition benefit (see below).

### **Is there a financial incentive for Wesleyan students to complete ARC as opposed to some other program?**

Yes. First of all, the price tag of ARC is much lower than stand-alone teacher training Master's programs. This is because the ARC program is heavily subsidized, since it helps to staff teachers in high-needs subject areas and since there is evidence about the value of training teachers whose undergraduate education is in their core subject area.

Second, the Wesleyan-ARC program is designed to help students defray the cost of teacher certification with a special GLSP scholarship just for ARC students. Students who begin their MA degree in Wesleyan's GLS program within 10 years of completing ARC (or while they are in the ARC program) will receive a per-course tuition scholarship for the 12-course MALS degree, roughly equivalent to the cost of ARC. In essence, if students complete ARC and a GLS MALS, the entire cost of ARC will be subsidized.

Third, while a Master's degree is not initially required for certification, teachers with an MA start at a higher pay grade. It is therefore advantageous to complete an MA as early as possible in one's teaching career.

### **What do I get upon completion of the ARC program?**

Upon satisfactory completion of the ARC requirements, you receive *initial teacher certification* (ED172). The initial teacher certification allows you to interview for full-time positions in public school districts in Connecticut and get hired pending a 90-day probationary period. Note that this means that you should plan to work in Connecticut for at least the first year after completing ARC. At the end of the 90 days, the district submits form ED172a on your behalf, which allows you to stay on. With this form, you are now like any other teacher who has completed traditional teacher training.

### **What is required to complete ARC satisfactorily?**

You must receive a satisfactory evaluation in all courses and exercises. In addition, the Praxis I exam must be completed by the end of the ARC program. The Praxis II exam must be completed in order to participate in the student-teaching practicum.

Information about Praxis exams can be found here:

<http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2613&q=321256>

There is a waiver process for Praxis I exams for students with target scores on SAT, ACT, or GRE exams:

<http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/cert/praxis/praxisiwaivercriteria.pdf>

### **What else do I need to do for teacher certification besides ARC?**

To transition from initial to *provisional teacher certification*, you need to complete an advanced teacher education process called TEAM as well as an evaluation process during

your first year of teaching. This process includes documentation of effectiveness in assessment, instruction, and planning, and a reflection paper that you submit.

Within 6 years, you need to attain *professional teacher certification*, typically by completing a Master's degree. If you choose to complete the MALS degree at Wesleyan, you will receive the GLS tuition benefit mentioned above.

### **What are the requirements to apply to ARC?**

BA degree in hand or on track to complete BA by the completion of ARC training

Minimum 3.0 GPA

Interview

Application submitted by May 19, 2018

Note that the admissions process for the Wesleyan Master's degree programs (BA/MA or MALS) are separate from admission to ARC. BA/MA deadlines are usually in early fall of senior year. GLS has three admissions periods: early April for students wishing to begin taking classes in summer term; early July for fall term, and early November for spring term.

### **How flexible is Connecticut teacher certification? What if I want to move to another state?**

The state of Connecticut is considered to have one of the most rigorous teacher certification processes and among the best public school systems in the country. As a result, CT teacher certification is among the most flexible and transferable teacher certifications you can get and it is accepted by many states. However, each state has its own specific requirements, and these change with some frequency, so the best idea is to look at the specific details from the state(s) you are interested in.

Here is a useful resource about inter-state reciprocity for teacher certification:

[http://www.swarthmore.edu/Documents/State\\_Certification\\_Reciprocity.pdf](http://www.swarthmore.edu/Documents/State_Certification_Reciprocity.pdf)

### **Are there transportation options for getting to and from Hartford?**

This is under discussion. This depends on the level of interest from Wesleyan students and how many students plan to participate in ARC.

### **Where will I do my student teaching?**

The ARC program negotiates placements with public school systems and coordinates with ARC students.

*NB: While Middletown Public Schools do not currently host ARC student teachers, this partnership is being actively pursued for Wesleyan students who wish to participate in ARC. Stay tuned.*

### **What if I wish to receive certification in an area that is not considered high-needs, like elementary education or early childhood education?**

The Wesleyan-ARC partnership only supports certification that ARC currently provides. We do not have a pathway toward certification in other areas.

Students wishing to pursue other certification areas are encouraged to investigate MA programs at well-regarded teacher training programs such as UConn, the Connecticut State University system (Central, Southern, Eastern all provide teacher training), the University of Hartford, or the University of Saint Joseph in Connecticut; teacher training programs outside of Connecticut, or practice-based programs such as MATCH or Boston Teacher Residency (BTR) in Boston.

*NB: A list of programs in which Wesleyan students have successfully participated is being developed for the Minor in Education Studies website.*