

SECONDARY EDUCATION

BACHELOR OF ARTS

ASPIRE

EXPERIENTIAL MAJOR MAP

RETURN ON INVESTMENT FOR MAJOR

A degree in Secondary Education provides a pathway to teacher licensure while preparing students to become effective educators in their chosen content area. Through field experiences and residency placements, candidates gain valuable classroom experience before graduation. Graduates develop in-demand skills in communication, leadership, instructional design, and problem-solving while preparing students for college, careers, and lifelong success. Ongoing demand for qualified secondary teachers continues to create strong career opportunities, particularly in high-need subject areas.

THE WHO...

- Teaching and mentoring high school students
- Sharing expertise in a content area such as English, Mathematics, Science, or Social Studies
- Inspiring critical thinking and lifelong learning
- Preparing students for college, careers, and civic engagement
- Leading classrooms and fostering academic achievement
- Making a positive impact in schools and communities
- Advocating for student success and educational excellence

THE WHY...

- Communication and presentation skills
- Classroom leadership and management
- Critical thinking and problem-solving
- Subject-area expertise
- Collaboration and teamwork
- Technology integration
- Data-driven instruction and assessment
- Adaptability and innovation
- Cultural responsiveness and inclusive teaching
- Professionalism and ethical leadership

THE WHAT

- High School Teacher (Grades 9-Adult)
- Advanced Placement or Honors Instructor
- Academic Intervention Specialist
- Curriculum Coordinator
- Instructional Coach
- Educational Consultant
- School Administrator (with graduate study)
- Postsecondary Instructor (with advanced degrees)

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

"I started college unsure of my direction, but the ASPIRE major map helped me stay focused. I followed the steps—attended networking events, secured internships, and built a portfolio through my capstone. By senior year, I wasn't scrambling—I was prepared. I received a full-time offer from my internship site before graduating."

HILLTOP ADVANTAGE

Secondary Education students combine strong content knowledge with hands-on classroom experience through field placements, residency opportunities, and faculty mentorship. Small class sizes and personalized support help candidates build the confidence, professionalism, and teaching skills needed to make an immediate impact in secondary schools.

TOP SKILLS

- Subject Matter Expertise
- Communication & Presentation
- Classroom Management
- Lesson Planning & Instruction
- Student Assessment
- Critical Thinking
- Educational Technology
- Collaboration & Teamwork
- Leadership & Mentoring
- Differentiated Instruction

ASPIRE - Experiential Major Map

	FIRST YEAR	MIDDLE YEARS	LAST YEAR	ACADEMIC SUCCESS CHECKLIST - Select and declare a Secondary Education certification area. - Observe classrooms in multiple grade levels (5-Adult). - Complete Admission Point requirements. - Pass Praxis Core/CASE or qualify for exemption. - Pass required Praxis II content assessments. - Explore Multicategorical Special Education certification options when eligible. - Complete Residency 1 and Residency 2 successfully. - Develop a professional portfolio showcasing content-area expertise. - Apply for graduation, certification, and professional employment.
A ACADEMIC MASTERY	Explore your teaching specialization (English, Mathematics, Biology, General Science, Social Studies, Art, Music, or Health & Physical Education). westliberty.edu Build a strong foundation in your content area. Complete introductory education coursework and field experiences. Develop academic habits that support maintaining a 3.0 GPA. Develop relationship with faculty advisor Complete the Mini-Residency Form to Begin Your Field Experience Mini-Residency Form	- Deepen content-area knowledge through advanced major coursework. - Successfully complete EDUC 301 and meet all Admission Point 1 requirements for the Teacher Education Program. Admission Point 1 Application - Develop instructional strategies specific to secondary learners. Consider adding a Middle School endorsement or Multicategorical Special Education specialization.	- Demonstrate mastery of curriculum design, assessment, and instructional decision-making. - Pass all required Praxis II content examinations. - Successfully complete all Residency 1 requirements. - Successfully complete Admission Point 3 (Admission to Residency 2) requirements. Admission Point 3 Application	
S SELF-DISCOVERY & STRENGTHS	- Explore careers in middle school, high school, and adult education. - Observe classrooms within your certification area. - Reflect on your strengths as a content specialist and future educator.	- Develop a teaching philosophy focused on adolescent learners. - Identify strengths in classroom management, communication, and instruction. - Seek mentorship from faculty and practicing educators.	- Define your professional identity as a secondary educator. - Determine preferred grade levels, school settings, and career goals. - Explore graduate programs and advanced certification opportunities.	
PI PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION INTEGRATIVE & EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING	- Participate in classroom observations related to your content field. - Engage in academic clubs and organizations connected to your major. - Begin documenting field experiences and professional growth. - Attend study abroad or experiential learning info sessions	- Complete required field and practicum experiences. - Design and teach lessons aligned to state and national standards in your content area. - Complete a minimum of 125 field hours and successfully meet all Admission Point 2 (Admission to Residency 1) requirements. Admission Point 2 Application Integrate instructional technology and data-driven decision making into teaching practice.	- Complete Residency 1 and Residency 2 placements in your certification area. - Complete at least 250 hours during Residency 1 and 500 hours during Residency 2. - Develop a professional teaching portfolio. - Complete the WV Teacher Performance Assessment and Mock Interview. - Apply for WV certification and employment.	
RE RELATIONSHIPS LEADERSHIP ENGAGEMENT & WELL-BEING	- Join Education Club and content-specific student organizations. - Attend TopperFest, networking events, and campus activities. - Build relationships with faculty advisors and peers.	- Assume leadership roles in student organizations. - Participate in professional conferences and service-learning opportunities. - Build mentoring relationships with cooperating teachers and school partners.	- Network with principals, district leaders, and alumni. - Participate in educator recruitment fairs and interview opportunities. - Successfully complete Admission Point 4 (Completion of Program requirements) Admission Point 4 Application - Transition from teacher candidate to professional educator. - Support and mentor younger education majors.	

