

Liberal Studies

Elementary Education



Your Path to Teaching Elementary School

Become a knowledgeable, caring, Christian educator through our rigorous, highly practical and professional program. You will learn from full-time professors with K-12 experience as you develop essential skills and attitudes to succeed as an elementary teacher. Westmont's stellar reputation opens doors for you to observe, teach, and invest in diverse schools across several grade levels. The Liberal Studies major develops strong expertise in content related to teaching language arts, science, social studies, physical education, art and music. Liberal studies majors also choose 10-12 units as a focus area or concentration. With careful planning and hard work, you can complete a B.A. and Teaching Credential in 4 or 5 years.

Secondary candidates major in art, English, history/social science, physical education/kinesiology, music, mathematics, the sciences (biology, chemistry, physics) and Spanish. Secondary candidates, with careful planning and hard work, can complete a B.A. and Teaching Credential in 4 or 5 years.

SELECTED COURSES

- Explorations in Teaching
- Perspectives on Cultural Diversity and Education
- Computers for the Classroom Teacher
- Language Acquisition
- Special Education for the Classroom Teacher
- Health Education for the Classroom Teacher

CAREER PATHS

Most liberal studies majors pursue a teaching credential and begin a career as an elementary school teacher.

Secondary credentials are offered in

- Art
- English
- History/Social Science
- Physical Education/
Kinesiology
- Music
- Mathematics
- Science:
 - Biology
 - Chemistry
 - Physics
- Spanish

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



ANDREW MULLEN, PH.D.

Andrew Mullen loves history, biology, literature and K-12 students. He has taught 4th and 5th grade and is passionate about the history of education, curriculum and instruction. He has a heart for Latin America and plans to lead Westmont in Mexico in fall 2023.



MICHELLE HUGHES, ED.D.

Michelle Hughes taught junior high English for seven years and served as a high school assistant principal for thirteen years. She promotes compassion, reflection, gratitude, and joyful learning, and co-edited the book, *Joyful Resilience as Educational Practice*.



CAROLYN MITTEN, PH.D.

Carolyn Mitten is a former mathematics teacher who has also taught a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses in education and mathematics. She enjoys helping her students foster a love of mathematics and deepen their assessment literacy.

OPPORTUNITIES ABROAD



- Westmont in Mexico
- Westmont in Northern Europe
- Westmont's Europe Semester
- Westmont's England Semester

ALUMNI

Nicole Aoki '20, Elementary: "My professors were able to cater to my individual needs as a student teacher, and they knew me well enough to pair me with a cooperating teacher who complemented my teaching style. Additionally, the courses I took during the credential program were relevant to what I experienced in student teaching. With extensive knowledge about the Common Core State Standards and with the practice of lesson planning during the credential program, I felt better prepared with the rest of my responsibilities in the classroom."

Kayla Monson '19, Elementary: "Westmont's Credential Program is rich in practical application, relevant teaching strategies, and in preparing teaching candidates for the

realities of the classroom. During my credential year, I received hands-on tools and experience through my ED courses, various field sites, observing my cooperating teachers, and through one-on-one mentoring from professors who observed and advised my teaching. One of the most meaningful aspects of my experience was completing the two-week take over in a 4th grade classroom. This was the best way to prepare me for what to expect as I entered a full-time teaching position. I also felt well supported from the Education Department's professors who would observe, advise, and encourage me as I pursued my teaching credential. Westmont's teaching program was a wonderful blessing and I would highly recommend it to anyone seeking to become a teacher."



WESTMONT