

Secondary Science Education, B.S.

Degree Offered

- Bachelor of Science

Nature of the Program

The Bachelor of Science in Secondary Science Education program in WVU's School of Education prepares students to meet the content, pedagogical, and professional demands of teaching science in middle and high school settings. Students will choose from among the following content and certification specializations:

- General Science (5-Adult)
- Biology (9-Adult)
- Chemistry (9-Adult)
- Physics (9-Adult)

Graduates are eligible for certification to teach in their specialization area upon completion of the program.

Students complete more than 900 hours of field and clinical experiences in a variety of public school classrooms. This includes over 125 hours of field observation prior to a year-long residency during the final year of the program. The residency consists of a half-time placement in the first semester and a full-time placement in the second semester. These experiences are grounded in strong partnerships with local schools, offering rich opportunities to work closely with experienced teachers and diverse student populations.

Program coursework is designed with a strong commitment to academic excellence, informed by state and national standards and certification requirements. Courses focus on the specialized work of teaching science, including understanding students and how they learn, curriculum design, instructional strategies, and school contexts. Faculty members are active in their fields as educators and as scholars, bringing relevant and robust expertise to our teacher education programs.

The program also prepares students for key certification milestones, including the Praxis II content exam and the edTPA performance assessment. In addition, students receive ongoing support from academic advisors and career development specialists through the Office of Student Success in the College of Applied Human Sciences.

Designed with flexibility in mind, the program allows students to apply transfer credits, pursue general education electives, or add a minor or second major, particularly in their science field of interest. Students may also have the option to complete their final-year residency in their home communities or at a distance, depending on placement availability and program approval.

Graduates of the B.S. in Secondary Science Education program emerge as well-prepared, reflective educators equipped to meet the challenges and opportunities of today's middle and high school classrooms.

Admissions for 2026-2027

FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN

Admission to the B.S. in Secondary Science Education program is consistent with admission requirements for First-Time Freshmen applying to WVU. You can find more information at:

Admission Requirements for First-Time Freshmen - Undergraduate Admissions at WVU (<https://admissions.wvu.edu/how-to-apply/first-time-freshmen/admission-requirements/>)

CURRENT WVU STUDENTS

Students admitted from other majors within WVU must have a 2.5 minimum cumulative GPA.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

Students transferring from another institution must have a 2.5 minimum cumulative GPA.

General Education Foundations

Please use this link to view a list of courses that meet each GEF requirement. (<http://registrar.wvu.edu/gef/>)

NOTE: Some major requirements will fulfill specific GEF requirements. Please see the curriculum requirements listed below for details on which GEFs you will need to select.

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Foundations		
F1 - Composition & Rhetoric		3-6
ENGL 101 & ENGL 102 or ENGL 103	Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric and Composition, Rhetoric, and Research Accelerated Academic Writing	
F2A/F2B - Science & Technology		4-6
F3 - Math & Quantitative Reasoning		3-4
F4 - Society & Connections		3
F5 - Human Inquiry & the Past		3
F6 - The Arts & Creativity		3
F7 - Global Studies & Diversity		3
F8 - Focus (may be satisfied by completion of a minor, double major, or dual degree)		9
Total Hours		31-37

Please note that not all of the GEF courses are offered at all campuses. Students should consult with their advisor or academic department regarding the GEF course offerings available at their campus.

Curriculum Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
A minimum GPA of 2.5 is required for graduation.		
University Requirements		39
Secondary Science Education Major Requirements		81
Total Hours		120

University Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Foundations (GEF) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 (31-37 Credits)		
Outstanding GEF Requirements (GEF 1, 5, 6, 7)		15
CAHS 191	First-Year Seminar	2
General Electives		22
Number of available credits for general electives may vary based on selected science certification endorsement area		
Total Hours		39

Secondary Science Education Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
A minimum GPA of 2.5 is required in all Secondary Science Education Major requirements		
SECONDARY EDUCATION CORE COURSEWORK		
EDUC 205	Introduction to Teaching and Learning in Secondary Schools (New course added to CIM; showing as inactive)	3
EDUC 304	Place-based and Emotionally Responsive Teaching	3
RDNG 422	Reading in the Content Areas	3
SPED 404	Special Education in Contemporary Society (GEF 4)	3
SPED 460	Differentiation of Instruction	3
SCIENCE METHODS/PEDAGOGY COURSEWORK		
EDUC 342 or EDUC 339	Teaching & Learning Science in Secondary Schools 1 Mathematics & Science Methods for Secondary Teachers 1	3
EDUC 442 or EDUC 439	Teaching & Learning Science in Secondary Schools 2 Mathematics & Science Methods for Secondary Teachers 2	3
SCIENCE CONTENT COURSEWORK		
EDUC 445	Practical Applications in Science and Science Teaching	3
EDUC 449	History & Philosophy of Science	3

Certification Endorsement Content Coursework		33-39
Biology (33 hours)		
Chemistry (35 hours)		
General Science (39 hours)		
Physics (35 hours)		
PROFESSIONAL FIELD AND CLINICAL EXPERIENCE COURSEWORK		
EDUC 313	Field Experience & Technology Applications in Secondary Schools 1	2
EDUC 314	Field Experience & Technology Applications in Secondary Schools 2	2
EDUC 412	Clinical Experience in Secondary Schools/Residency 1	5
EDUC 413	Clinical Experience in Secondary Schools/Residency 2	9
EDUC 485	Residency/Technology Capstone in Secondary Education	3
Total Hours		81-87

Content Coursework for Biology (9-Adult) Certification Endorsement (Teacher Certification Code T127)

Code	Title	Hours
BIOL 115 & 115L	Principles of Biology and Principles of Biology Laboratory	4
BIOL 117 & 117L	Introductory Physiology and Introductory Physiology Laboratory	4
BIOL 219 & 219L	Cellular and Molecular Biology and Cellular & Molecular Biology Laboratory	4
BIOL 221	Ecology and Evolution	3
SUST 101 & 101L	Sustainable Earth and Sustainable Earth Laboratory	4
MATH 150	Applied Calculus	3
CHEM 115 & 115L	Fundamentals of Chemistry 1 and Fundamentals of Chemistry 1 Laboratory	4
PHYS 105 & 105L	Conceptual Physics and Conceptual Physics Laboratory	4
ASTR 106	Descriptive Astronomy	3
Total Hours		33

Content Coursework for Chemistry (9-Adult) Certification Endorsement (Teacher Certification Code T128)

Code	Title	Hours
CHEM 115 & 115L	Fundamentals of Chemistry 1 and Fundamentals of Chemistry 1 Laboratory	4
CHEM 116 & 116L	Fundamentals of Chemistry 2 and Fundamentals of Chemistry 2 Laboratory	4
CHEM 215 & 215L	Introductory Analytical Chemistry and Introductory Analytical Chemistry Laboratory	4
CHEM 231 & 231L	Organic Chemistry: Brief Course and Organic Chemistry: Brief Course Laboratory	4
PHYS 105 & 105L	Conceptual Physics and Conceptual Physics Laboratory	4
SUST 101 & 101L	Sustainable Earth and Sustainable Earth Laboratory	4
MATH 155	Calculus 1	4
BIOL 101 & 101L	General Biology 1 and General Biology 1 Laboratory	4
ASTR 106	Descriptive Astronomy	3
Total Hours		35

Content Coursework for General Science (5-Adult) Certification Endorsement (Teacher Certification Code T133)

Code	Title	Hours
SUST 101 & 101L	Sustainable Earth and Sustainable Earth Laboratory	4
SUST 102	Global Sustainability	3
SUST 201 & 201L	Earth System Science and Earth System Science Laboratory	4
GEOL 321	Geomorphology	3
GEOL 365	Environmental Geology	3
ASTR 106	Descriptive Astronomy	3
BIOL 101 & 101L	General Biology 1 and General Biology 1 Laboratory	4
BIOL 102 & 102L	General Biology 2 and General Biology 2 Laboratory	4
CHEM 115 & 115L	Fundamentals of Chemistry 1 and Fundamentals of Chemistry 1 Laboratory	4
PHYS 105 & 105L	Conceptual Physics and Conceptual Physics Laboratory	4
MATH 150	Applied Calculus	3
Total Hours		39

Content Coursework for Physics (9-Adult) Certification Endorsement (Teacher Certification Code T140)

Code	Title	Hours
PHYS 111 & 111L	General Physics 1 and General Physics 1 Laboratory	4
PHYS 112 & 112L	General Physics 2 and General Physics 2 Laboratory	4
PHYS 314	Introductory Modern Physics	4
CHEM 115 & 115L	Fundamentals of Chemistry 1 and Fundamentals of Chemistry 1 Laboratory	4
BIOL 101 & 101L	General Biology 1 and General Biology 1 Laboratory	4
MATH 155	Calculus 1	4
MATH 156	Calculus 2	4
SUST 101 & 101L	Sustainable Earth and Sustainable Earth Laboratory	4
ASTR 106	Descriptive Astronomy	3
Total Hours		35

WV Certification Requirements

To be able to be recommended for teacher certification in the area of Biology (9-Adult), Chemistry (9-Adult), General Science (5-Adult), or Physics (9-Adult) as a certification program completer, students will also need to meet the following requirements, in addition to completing the major coursework requirements:

- Documentation of Pre-Professional Skills requirement in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics, using one of the following allowable evidence indicated in the West Virginia Licensure Testing Directory.
- Receive a passing score on the appropriate Praxis II licensure content exam in the endorsement area, prior to the clinical/Residency experience:
 - #5236: Biology Content Knowledge
 - #5246: Chemistry

- #5436: General Science
- #5266: Physics
- Complete, submit, and pass the edTPA professional education assessment during the clinical/Residency experience.
- Maintain at least a cumulative GPA of 2.5.

Suggested Plan of Study

First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
CAHS 191		2 ENGL 102 (GEF 1)	3
ENGL 101 (GEF 1)		3 Science Certification Endorsement Content Course (GEF 8)	4
Science Certification Endorsement Content Course (GEF 2B)		4 Science Certification Endorsement Content Course (GEF 8)	3
Science Certification Endorsement Content Course (GEF 8)		3 General Elective	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
	15		16

Second Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
EDUC 205		3 Science Certification Endorsement Content Course	4
Science Certification Endorsement Content Course		4 Science Certification Endorsement Content Course	3
Science Certification Endorsement Content Course		4 GEF 6	3
GEF 5		3 GEF 7	3
General Elective		1 General Elective	3
	15		16

Third Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
EDUC 313		2 EDUC 314	2
SPED 404 (GEF 4)		3 EDUC 342 or 339	3
EDUC 445		3 RDNG 422	3
Science Certification Endorsement Content Course		4 SPED 460	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
		General Elective	3
	15		17

Fourth Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
EDUC 412		5 EDUC 413	9
EDUC 442 or 439		3 EDUC 485	3
EDUC 449		3	
EDUC 304		3	
	14		12

Total credit hours: 120

Suggested Plan of Study for Transfer Students

Third Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
EDUC 205		3 EDUC 314	2
EDUC 313		2 EDUC 342 or 339	3
SPED 404 (GEF 4)		3 RDNG 422	3
EDUC 445		3 SPED 460	3
Science Certification Endorsement Content Course		4 General Elective or Science Certification Endorsement Content Course	4

General Elective or Science Certification Endorsement Content Course		3 General Elective or Science Certification Endorsement Content Course		3
		18		18
Fourth Year				
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	
EDUC 412		5 EDUC 413		9
EDUC 442 or 439		3 EDUC 485		3
EDUC 449		3		
EDUC 304		3		
		14		12

Total credit hours: 62

Major Learning Outcomes

SECONDARY SCIENCE EDUCATION

1. **Content Knowledge for Teaching** - Teacher candidates will demonstrate and use a deep and specialized knowledge of science content, including how scientific ideas develop and are connected in and out of the curriculum, to inform their work supporting meaningful learning of science.
2. **Learners and Learning** - Teacher candidates will use awareness of how learners grow and develop and an understanding of differences across individual learners to design and implement developmentally appropriate learning experiences to engage all students in the learning process.
3. **Learning Environments** - Teacher candidates will collaborate with others to create academically safe classroom environments that foster positive and active engagement in learning for all learners.
4. **Planning for Instruction** - Teacher candidates will develop content goals for student learning that align with state standards and will design plans for instruction that engage students in meaningful learning experiences toward those goals.
5. **Pedagogy and Instructional Strategies** - Teacher candidates will facilitate learning experiences using a variety of instructional strategies, including the use of appropriate technology tools, to motivate and engage students in discussion and learning.
6. **Assessment of Student Learning** - Teacher candidates will design and implement both formative and summative assessments of student progress and learning as part of reflecting on and continuously improving instruction and to provide feedback to students about their own development.
7. **Professional Dispositions and Behaviors** - Teacher candidates will model the ethical standards expected for the teaching profession in the classroom, school, and the community, by engaging in ongoing professional learning and productively collaborating with colleagues, administrators, families, and community members.