

RHODE ISLAND

Institutional Authorization

Western Governors University is authorized to provide its educational programs in Rhode Island through a state authorization reciprocity agreement (NC-SARA). More information about NC-SARA is available on their [website](#).

Licensure Pathway

Candidates applying for a teaching license in Rhode Island do so through the direct licensure pathway. Direct licensure is available when a state allows candidates to be licensed upon completion of a program that is approved in the state of Utah. Candidates apply for licensure upon WGU confirming completion of an out-of-state program. They are not required to obtain a Utah license. Complete details on licensure requirements in the state of Rhode Island as well as information on applying using the direct licensure pathway can be found in the [licensure handbook](#).

Educational Prerequisites

WGU's education preparation programs satisfy the applicable educational prerequisites for professional licensure in Rhode Island for the licenses listed below. In the Rhode Island certification system, there are [two levels of certificates](#), Independent Certificates and Dependent Certificates. Independent Certificates may be attained without the need for any additional certificates while Dependent Certificates may only be obtained by holding the required Independent Certificate.

Students who will complete their demonstration teaching (DT) in Rhode Island are required to have a Student Teaching Permit. Details on how to apply for this permit can be found in the [licensure handbook](#).

WGU Program	License
BA Elementary Education MAT Elementary Education	Elementary Education Teacher, Grades 1-6 (Independent Certificate)
BA Special Education and Elementary Education (Dual Licensure)	Elementary Education Teacher Grades 1-6 (Independent Certificate) and Special Education Teacher Grades 1-6 (Dependent Certificate)
BS Mathematics Education (Middle Grades) MAT Mathematics Education (Middle Grades) MA Mathematics Education (Middle Grades)*^	Middle Grades Mathematics Teacher, Grades 5-8 (Stand Alone Certificate)
BS Science Education (Middle Grades) MA Science Education (Middle Grades)*^	Middle Grades Science Teacher, Grades 5-8 (Stand Alone Certificate)
BS Mathematics Education (Secondary) MAT Mathematics Education (Secondary) MA Mathematics Education (Secondary)*	Secondary Grades Mathematics Teacher, Grades 7-12 (Independent Certificate)
BS Science Education (Secondary Biological Science) MA Science Education (Secondary Biological Science)*	Secondary Grades Biology Teacher, Grades 7-12 (Independent Certificate)
BS Science Education (Secondary Chemistry) MA Science Education (Secondary Chemistry)*	Secondary Grades Chemistry Teacher, Grades 7-12 (Independent Certificate)
BS Science Education (Secondary Physics) MA Science Education (Secondary Physics)*	Secondary Grades Physics Teacher, Grades 7-12 (Independent Certificate)
MAT Science Education (Secondary)	Secondary Grades Biology Teacher, Grades 7-12 (Independent Certificate) <i>or</i> Secondary Grades Chemistry Teacher, Grades 7-12 (Independent Certificate) <i>or</i> Secondary Grades Physics Teacher, Grades 7-12 (Independent Certificate)
MAT English Education (Secondary)	Secondary Grades English Teacher, Grades 7-12 (Independent Certificate)
Endorsement English Language Learning (PreK-12)* MA English Language Learning (PreK-12)*	English to Speakers of Other Languages (Dependent Certificate)**
MS Educational Leadership*	Building Level Administrator, Grades PK-12

*Advanced programs are for already licensed teachers who want to add an additional teaching area or field to their licenses (or a separate license for Educational Leadership). These programs are not intended for aspiring teachers seeking initial licensure.

^WGU's programs do not meet all the educational prerequisites to add a middle grades endorsement in science or mathematics to an existing Rhode Island license. Rhode Island Educators who want to add a middle grades (5-8) endorsement to an existing teaching certificate are required to complete a 45-hour practicum in a middle grades classroom. This practicum is not part of the WGU programs and must be arranged as part of the Teacher Work Sample at the end of the program.

Rhode Island educators who wish to add new certificate areas must complete specific coursework or an approved program, depending on their existing license and the type of license they wish to add. Details on adding an endorsement to a Rhode Island teaching license are available in the [licensure handbook](#).

**In Rhode Island, the English to Speakers of Other Languages certificate is dependent upon the initial teaching certificate(s) held. More information is available on the Rhode Island Department of Education [website](#) (also see #11 on page 5 at [this link](#)).

The following programs are not available in Rhode Island:

- *BA Special Education (Mild to Moderate)* – Rhode Island requires dual endorsement for Special Education certification. Therefore, students in Rhode Island may not enroll in this program, as they will not receive a teaching certificate.
- *BS Science Education (Secondary Earth Science)* – Rhode Island does not have an Earth Science license.
- *MA Science Education (Secondary Earth Science)* – Rhode Island does not have an Earth Science license.
- *MAT Science Education (Secondary) if seeking the Earth Science license* – Rhode Island does not have an Earth Science license.

Consumer Complaint Information

Students can refer to [this information](#) regarding the complaint process for those attending WGU in Rhode Island.

Military Information

Military members and military spouses should reference the Rhode Island General Statutes Title 5 [Section 5-87-1](#) and [Section 5-88-1](#) for information on licensure opportunities.