TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM
“WPI students really make a difference in the science classroom. They bring new ideas and experiences to the teaching and learning process, which helps middle school students see the subject in a new light.”

Angela Lamoureux
Science Teacher
Forest Grove Middle School
Worcester, Massachusetts
Where will you make a difference?

As problem solvers, innovators, and leaders, WPI students are driven to make a difference in the world. Take part in the WPI Teacher Preparation Program and you can take off after graduation with a dual career path. Pursue your passion for research, invention, or entrepreneurship—and transform a middle- or high school classroom as part of a national movement to increase our nation’s global competitiveness. The choice and timing are yours.

“As a WPI graduate, I know how important it is to connect what I’m teaching to the real world. It’s a natural extension of four years of balancing theory and practice. Teachers today need to have plenty of strategies to keep encouraging students and making learning fun. The WPI Teacher Preparation Program can help WPI students find those channels.”

Greg Coffey ’10
Co-founder and Tutor at Academically Inclined Tutoring Company
Russell Varney

Russ knew he wanted to teach early into his own high school years. He had a passion for math but he realized that not every student did, and that a teacher who could make it fun and relevant had a better chance of keeping students engaged and learning. It was a realization that led him to WPI, where the hands-on approach to education exposed him precisely to the style of teaching and learning he hopes to match.

HOMETOWN
Belfast, Maine

MAJOR
Mathematics

TEACHING PRACTICUM
North High School, Worcester, Massachusetts

WHAT I LEARNED
“My student teaching experience actually made me a better mathematician. You have to know your methods inside and out because the students will challenge you. They will ask you all kinds of in-depth questions, and you have to be prepared to offer them the right analysis and explanation. The experience also tested my ability to communicate ideas effectively for different types of audiences.”
Pursue your passion. Share your knowledge.

Immersed in your discipline, you can pursue your passion in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics at WPI. Like every WPI student, you’ll complete field-specific projects, rigorous course work, and a senior capstone project in your major, and be exposed to humanities and arts. As part of the WPI Teacher Preparation Program, you’ll graduate with

- a state-authorized Initial License,
- the course work you need to teach biology, chemistry, mathematics, or physics in grades 6 through 12, and
- communication and leadership skills that will serve you in the classroom and beyond.

Prepared from day one to think and respond as entrepreneurs, innovators, and leaders, WPI graduates have the creativity and can-do attitude to go to the head of the class. The challenge is to take what you learn here and apply it toward engaging other young people in the power and promise of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) to secure our future in a global, technological world.

Project work, one of the most innovative aspects of a WPI education, gives would-be teachers the hands-on experiences that can help you see the beauty in an experiment, the order in an equation, and the potential to change the world by changing a life.

*Great Problems Seminar*, a two-course introduction to project work and university-level research, gives first year students a chance to focus on a theme of current global importance, including health, energy, food distribution, transportation, or housing. The seminars include Feed the World, Power the World, Heal the World, Educate the World, and the Grand Challenges Seminar.

A *Humanities and Arts requirement* prepares you to be a well-rounded contributor to society and a better, more compelling teacher. You might travel to Morocco, write and perform a play or musical composition, minor in an area of study that inspires your inner artist—there’s no limit to the possibilities.

*The Interactive Qualifying Project/Global Perspective Program* applies STEM disciplines to solve a problem that matters to real people in real communities. As part of the Teacher Preparation Program, your interactive project can be a practicum, which is a requirement of the Professional Standards for Teachers in Massachusetts.

*The Major Qualifying Project*, completed in the senior year, is your chance to demonstrate mastery in your major field of study. This mastery will serve you well no matter how your future unfolds. And if teaching is your calling, the practical experience and academic knowledge you acquired here will be put to good use inspiring young minds in the classroom of the future.
Greater opportunities, same number of credits.

WPI requires two social science courses, which can be fulfilled by taking the courses required for teacher preparation. One of your electives can be used to complete the required course in teaching methods.

- PSY 2401 Educational Psychology
- PSY 2406 Cross Cultural Psychology
- ID 3100 Teaching Methods
- Interactive Project
- Teaching Practicum

- Freshman – Senior year (any term)
- Freshman or Sophomore year (any term)
- Junior year (any term)
A strong return from paying it forward.

Kim Chinkidjakarn

Kim chose WPI in part because of the Teacher Preparation Program. Considering herself very lucky to have had positive experiences with teachers from elementary school forward, she decided she would study and work to have a positive impact on future generations of students. Her portfolio from her teaching practicum led to a job as a long-term math substitute.

HOMETOWN
Sudbury, Massachusetts

MAJOR
Electrical and Computer Engineering

TEACHING PRACTICUM
Forest Grove Middle School, Worcester, Massachusetts

WHAT I LEARNED
“In 8th grade, when I was just beginning to learn algebra, I had no idea how the concepts being taught in the classroom applied to the real world. Remembering that now as a teacher, and having the benefit of a WPI education, means I can put it all in perspective for my students.”
Matthew Zubiel

As a senior in high school, Matt took an Educational Field Experience course that enabled him to teach at a local elementary school. At first he questioned if this course was the best academic path for him. The 5th grade teacher that mentored Matt allowed him to teach lessons and tutor students that needed extra help. He felt like he was really making a difference in these children’s lives. This experience helped him realize his passion to teach.

HOMETOWN
Monument, Colorado

MAJOR
Mathematics

TEACHING PRACTICUM
Lewis-Palmer Middle School, Monument, Colorado

WHAT I LEARNED
“The WPI program is not your typical teacher prep. I really appreciate that I can pursue both my technical degree and my teaching certification. I’m learning about the field I love—math—while extending my career options. True to the WPI approach, I designed my own real-world project at a middle school in Colorado, where I interacted with about 150 students a day. I already have a great resume; having this experience could change my life.”
The STEM Education Center at WPI

The STEM Education Center builds upon the university’s strong K–12 foundations and aims to improve preparedness of primary and secondary school teachers so they can better educate and engage young people in science, technology, engineering, and math.

The Center focuses on the following areas:

- Certification and Degree Programs
- Professional Development Workshops
- Integration of Research on Teaching and Learning to utilize the entirety of WPI’s vast educator resources

WPI, one of the nation’s earliest technological universities, has been breaking new ground since its founding in 1865. At WPI, education has always been distinguished by combining rigorous theory with practical experience, preparing students to be innovative thinkers who can solve problems. WPI has more than 50 undergraduate and graduate degree programs in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts.

wpi.edu/+teach