Reflection Questions

In Washington State, you will have a Residency Teaching Certificate with one or more *endorsements* on it. Endorsements indicate which particular subject areas and grade levels you are qualified to teach. For example: Elementary Education K8, Visual Arts K-12, or Mathematics 5-12 (a complete list is available here). Washington State requires a content test for every endorsement area (passed by June 1 of start year). We have developed this reflection and planning tool to help you determine which endorsement(s) you would like to pursue.

Why do you want to become a teacher?

Click here to enter text.

When you picture yourself teaching in one to two years, what do you see? How old are the students? What are they doing? What are you doing? (Be specific)

Click here to enter text.

What major(s) and minor(s) did you complete in college? What did you like best about them? What did you like the least? What content are you most passionate about and why?

Click here to enter text.

Now look back to your earlier description of your future as a teacher. Imagine a student asks a hard question or is having difficulty with a concept. Do you have the breadth and depth of content to respond? Now imagine you are in a meeting with your colleagues? Do you have the depth and breadth of content to participate fully with them.

Click here to enter text.

We hope these questions have helped you reflect on both who (e.g. what age) and what (content) you would like to teach. Indicate which endorsement(s) you are currently considering:

Click here to enter text.

Coursework Review

At PLU, we want you to be well prepared to teach your content area. Therefore, we have **minimum** coursework requirements for each endorsement. Ideally, you will have majored or minored in the area(s) you would like to teach but this is not absolutely necessary, especially for elementary education. Given your reflection above, you may feel called to teach a certain area for which you have little current preparation. In that case you may have several courses to take before starting the program. Note that all Special Education and English Language Learner coursework is taken during our program and have no coursework pre-requisites.

Again, our intention is for you to be successful in your teaching career and strong content preparation is essential. Based on your reflection, you may decide to take coursework beyond our **minimum** expectations in order expand your content preparation.

All necessary coursework must be completed before the program begins in June. Candidates looking to earn a Special Education or English Language Learners endorsement are not eligible to test until they have satisfied the coursework requirements in the first summer of the program.

A complete list of endorsements offered at PLU along with required coursework for each endorsement are listed on the [Education Department website](https://www.plu.edu/education/endorsements/). Click on the endorsement name to see the overview of content requirements which must be fulfilled prior to starting the graduate programs.

If you would like us to review your transcripts to determine if you have satisfied the content requirements for your desired endorsement(s), please provide your unofficial transcripts with this completed form.

* Send your completed form and unofficial transcripts to [educ@plu.edu](mailto:educ@plu.edu)
* We will respond to confirm what courses, if any are needed.
* All coursework should be completed by June 20th of the intended start year.
* In addition to coursework, the WEST-E/NES in your intended endorsement area must be passed by June 1 of the intended start year.