New Formal Admission Guidelines may affect you this summer!!
(If you have already achieved FATE, you may disregard this notice.)

If you still need FATE, please read entire document!!

Why is this all about?
Effective immediately, the process of Formal Admission to Teacher Education (FATE) will change at West Chester University. This is the result of new guidelines from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). According to the new guidelines, and depending on how many credits you have earned, YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE FURTHER PROGRESS IN YOUR ACADEMIC PROGRAM unless you take steps to achieve FATE by August 1, 2015.

Please read this entire document to learn how the new guidelines will affect you. If you have more than 60 earned credits right now, you will need to achieve FATE as soon as possible or you will be unable to make any progress in your academic program beyond the Fall 2015 semester. If you have 48 credits or more, you may need to achieve FATE prior to registering for Spring 2016 courses. Again, please read this entire document to learn the details.

How does FATE work?
FATE is achieved by formal application after meeting all of the following criteria:

1. enrolled in an educator preparation program;
2. completed 48 credits of college-level coursework;
3. earned a minimum GPA of 2.8 on all college-level coursework;
4. passed all tests in one of the basic skills testing programs recognized by PDE: Pre-Service Academic Performance Assessments (PAPA), Core Academic Skills for Educators (CORE), Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT), or American College Test Plus Writing (ACT);
5. earned six credits of college-level mathematics, three credits of college-level English composition, and three credits of college-level literature taught in English;
6. met the community service experience requirement (for majors in special education, early grades preparation, middle grades preparation);
7. completed the Declaration of Academic Content Area Concentration (for majors in middle grades preparation); and
8. obtained advisor’s or department chairperson’s signature.

How does FATE benefit me?
Achieving FATE enables teacher education candidates to enroll in designated upper division courses necessary to make continued progress in programs (e.g., “FATE-only courses” or “advanced coursework”). Without FATE, candidates cannot complete an educator preparation program. FATE-only courses are designated as such on degree progress documents, on department webpages, and/or in University catalogs. Different programs have different numbers of FATE-only courses.

At present, in most cases, candidates can make progress beyond the 48 credit threshold without achieving FATE for one or two semesters before they start needing FATE-only courses to maintain steady progress toward graduation. In some cases, candidates can go three semesters before they realize that all the remaining courses they need to take are FATE-only.
So how is PDE changing FATE?
PDE has expanded the list of FATE-only courses. This expanded list will result in restrictions on the way FATE works at WCU and will create a narrower window for candidates to achieve FATE during their academic careers. Now it will be exceedingly difficult to move beyond the 60-credit point before achieving FATE. This will quite effectively narrow the window of opportunity one has to achieve FATE before running out of courses to take. This is because the list of FATE-only or advanced courses has been expanded by PDE to include virtually all upper division professional education courses. Further, PDE has placed a restriction on taking these courses after 60 credits without FATE. Candidates who have not achieved FATE will find it impossible to progress through their educator preparation programs once they have 60 or more earned credits.

Is there anything I need to do about this before I return to campus in the fall?

In some cases, YES! See if you match one of the following scenarios and take the appropriate action:

1. **If you have more than 60 credits, according to the new guidelines you have until August 1, 2015 to achieve FATE.** If you fail to do so, you will be unable to make progress in your educator preparation program starting in Spring 2016 since PDE now restricts taking “advanced courses” beyond the 60 credits without FATE. There is no grandparent clause for these new guidelines. If you have 60 or more credits, you will be affected. Nevertheless, If you have more than 60 credits, do not have FATE, but are scheduled for courses in the fall that you would otherwise be prevented from taking according to this new guidelines, we will NOT remove you from these courses. However, without FATE, you cannot schedule professional education courses for Spring 2016.

2. If you will start the Fall 2015 semester with more than 48 credits, but fewer than 60 credits, you have just a little more time. But keep in mind, if you start the fall semester with 48 credits, you will reach the 60 credit mark by the end of the semester if you are a full-time student. If you reach the 60 credit mark by the end of the fall semester; you will need to achieve FATE before the end of the semester in order to maintain degree progress beyond the fall.

3. If you will have fewer than 48 credits going into the Fall 2015 semester, you still need to plan carefully. You should plan on meeting all the FATE criteria listed above and achieving FATE before reaching 60 credits.

Isn’t it the case that a FATE Delay Permit will give me an extra semester to get this worked out?

No, the new PDE guidelines seem to make the FATE Delay Permits obsolete.

Is there really the need for this much urgency?

Yes, depending on the number of earned credits you have at this moment. See above. If you are at risk of having your degree progress slowed as a result of the new PDE guidelines, or if you have questions, please contact Mrs. MacDonald (jmacdonald@wcupa.edu - 610.436.0042) or department chair right away. Grab your smartphone and do it right now!