

## HISTORY, DEGREES, AND ACCREDITATION

Westfield State University was established in 1839 as the Barre Normal School, Barre, MA. In 1844 the institution relocated to Westfield, MA and re-opened as the Westfield Normal School. Additional name changes: 1932 Westfield State Teachers College; 1960 Massachusetts State College at Westfield; 1967 Westfield State College; and 2010 Westfield State University (one of nine institutions of the state university system). Westfield offers the B.A., B.S., B.S.E., B.S.N., B.S.W., M.A., M.S., M.Ed., M.P.A., and M.S.W. degrees and a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies (C.A.G.S.). Institutional accreditation has been granted by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) and the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM). The teacher licensure programs are accredited by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The Athletic Training program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE). The Health Fitness program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). The Social Work program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). The Computer Science program is accredited by the Computing Accreditation Commission (CAC) of Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET). Westfield is designated as a Commonwealth of Massachusetts-accredited Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training institution. The baccalaureate Nursing program is approved by the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing and is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (<http://www.aacn.nche.edu/ccne-accreditation>). The ARC-PA has granted Accreditation - Provisional status to the Westfield State University Physician Assistant Program.

## CREDIT

Westfield operates on a semester hour system. One (1) credit represents the completion of 50 minutes of direct faculty instruction or 120 minutes of laboratory or studio work per week for approximately 15 weeks.

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS/HONORS

Undergraduate degrees require a minimum of 120 credits and an institutional GPA of 2.00 or greater. Graduate degrees require a minimum of 30 credits and an institutional GPA of 3.00 or greater. Graduation honors are awarded at the following levels for undergraduate programs only: *Cum Laude* 3.30 to 3.59, *Magna Cum Laude* 3.60 to 3.79, or *Summa Cum Laude* 3.80 and above. Pre-fall 2013 honors were determined using a cumulative GPA including transfer grades and students must have completed a minimum of 60 credit hours at Westfield. Fall 2013 and beyond, honors are determined using a cumulative GPA calculated with only Westfield courses and students must complete a minimum of 45 credit hours at Westfield.

## DEAN'S LIST

Awarded each semester to undergraduate students who have completed a minimum course load of 12 graded credits (not including pass/fail courses), earned at least a B+ average (3.30), had no grade below a C, and no I (incomplete) grades.

## TRANSFER CREDIT/CREDIT BY EXAMINATION

Courses accepted in transfer prior to matriculation are listed by institution at the beginning of the transcript and are not used in the calculation of the institutional GPA. The minimum acceptable grade is C- (B for graduate work). The 1990 Commonwealth Transfer Compact and the MassTransfer programs allow grades of D to be accepted only when needed to earn the 60 undergraduate credits guaranteed for approved programs. Courses taken at other institutions post-matriculation before September 2012, regardless of grades, are used in the institutional GPA. Courses taken at other institutions post-matriculation after September 2012 require a minimum grade of C- and are no longer used in the institutional GPA. In either case, a notation of the institution that originally awarded the credits is included. Undergraduate students may transfer in a maximum of 90 credits (of which only 79 can be from a two-year school as of Fall 2018) and graduate students may transfer in a maximum of 6 credits. The College Level Examination Program (CLEP), Advanced Placement Program (AP), or other examinations may be used as a basis for granting advanced standing and/or (based on department policy); courses and credits are noted on the transcript as transfer credit and apply to the two-year school maximums.

## REPEATED COURSES

All instances of a course and its grade appear on the transcript. Pre-September 2001 the original and repeated grade(s) are used in the GPA. September 2001 and beyond, only the most recent grade is used in the GPA. Credit for repeated courses is earned only once. A notation of E (exclude), I (include), or A (averaged) is included next to the grade when the policy is invoked. September 2012 and beyond, Westfield courses must be repeated at Westfield.

## GRADES

<u>Undergraduate for Credit</u>	<u>Graduate for Credit</u>	<u>Not for Credit</u>
A = 4.0	A = High Distinction, 4.0	AU = Audit
A- = 3.7	A- = Superior, 3.7	D- = 0.7 †
B+ = 3.3	B+ = Excellent, 3.3	F = 0.0
B = 3.0	B = Good, 3.0	FL = Fail
B- = 2.7	B- = Marginal Pass, 2.7	I = Incomplete *
C+ = 2.3	C = 2.0, acceptable for graduate credit for only one 3-credit course in a candidate's program.	NR = Not Recorded *
C = 2.0		R = Research
C- = 1.7		W = Withdrawn
D+ = 1.3		
D = 1.0		
D- = 0.7 †		
P, PS = Pass		

† Westfield only used D- grades for post-matriculation transfer credit pre September 2012. Beginning Fall 2017, D- grades will be available for domestic courses taken in residence.

\* Grades of I and NR are converted to an F if no grade has been submitted by the fourth week of the next semester.