

**Piloting a Fifth Year Model**  
**The Professional Year Program**  
**(AKA)**  
**The Professional Educator Program**

The College of Education and Human Services (CEHS) engaged in an elaborate and extensive review of the preparation of educators with stakeholders in the Miami Valley during 1991 and 1992. A strong consensus emerged for preparing teachers who were strong in their content fields and had extensive preservice field experiences. CEHS faculty debated and refined these program concepts during 1993. In 1994, a two-day retreat was held to make a fifth year curriculum a concrete reality.

In the summer of 1995, the first fifth year program, named Professional Year Program, was initiated to pilot concepts of a fifth year cohort program. In 1997, the piloting continued under the name of Professional Educator Program (PEP) (in recognition of the fact that it took five quarters to complete). Piloting of new licensure program and fifth year concepts continued in 1998–2001. The PEP is sunsetted in the summer of 2002 as the Middle Childhood and Adolescent to Young Adult Programs come fully online in year five of the 1998–2003 phase in of the Ohio Department of Education licensure programs.

This lengthy field test of a fifth year field intensive cohort group has resulted in strong partnership input over the years, and should result in a smooth transition to the fifth year model for Middle Childhood and Adolescent to Young Adult programs.