



MASTER OF ARTS IN EDUCATION, SPECIAL EDUCATION/TEACHER LEADERSHIP

Welcome

The **Teacher Leader** programs are designed to empower teachers to address authentic needs in classroom management, differentiated instruction, and most importantly improve student learning. Teacher leaders are essential in leading schools to overcome student barriers to learning, particularly those that emerge from high-need environments. Placing highly trained teachers who are prepared for systemic change and leadership in schools will help close achievement gaps, facilitate learning for all students, and develop equitable practices to meet the needs of diverse learners.

- To directly impact student learning
- To include a Professional Education Core rooted in Pedagogy, Leadership, and Content applicable to all programs of study in teaching
- To allow individualized programs based on the candidates' professional learning goals

There are two tracks from which to select in the MAE in Special Education:

Moderate and Severe Disabilities

The Master of Arts/Teacher Leader in Special Education for Moderate and Severe Disabilities Advanced Preparation program is designed to develop Teacher Leaders who can positively impact student learning in their classrooms and schools while serving students with Moderate and Severe Disabilities (MSD). Courses and experiences include Professional Learning Communities in which students interact with other graduate students from various content areas and grade levels to discuss and work on real world challenges and promising practices they encounter in schools.

Learning and Behavior Disorders

The MAE in Special Education, Learning and Behavior Disorders (LBD), is program is designed to develop Teacher Leaders who can positively impact student learning in their classrooms and schools while serving students with Learning and Behavior Disorders. The School of Teacher Education, through the Exceptional Education program area, offers courses and experiences for initial preparation of Exceptional Education teachers and for those seeking advanced preparation. Advanced preparation programs include Professional Learning Communities in which students interact with other graduate students from various content areas and grade levels to discuss and work on real world challenges and promising practices they encounter in schools. There are two concentrations for advanced preparation:

- LBOC: Advanced Preparation in LBD for those with prior teacher certification in any area other than Exceptional Education LBD.
- LBLB: Advanced Preparation in LBD for those with prior certification in LBD.

Within each concentration, the student is expected to become competent in theory, research, and application of best teaching practices related to exceptional students with Learning and Behavior Disorders and to exhibit appropriate teacher disposition behaviors as indicated by the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences

Teacher Disposition Rating Form. Students in both concentrations will complete specialization and elective courses, as well as a core of common courses, based upon their certification status, educational background, and career goals.

For additional information on specific program requirements for the M.A.E. in Special Education visit the School of Teacher Education's website at <http://wku.edu/ste/sped/graduate.php>.

Admission Requirements

(Criteria vary depending on the student's undergraduate institution and GPA)

WKU Graduates

Applicants who are alumni of WKU teacher preparation programs must submit a current, valid teaching certificate or Statement of Eligibility for Elementary (Grades P-5).

Graduate of a Kentucky Higher Education Institute other than WKU

Applicants with undergraduate degrees from all other accredited universities will be admitted without a qualifying GRE score if they have a minimum 2.75 GPA for all previous coursework (undergraduate and graduate) and a valid teaching certificate for elementary education. A copy of the certificate must be submitted with the application.

Graduate of an Out-of-State Institution of Higher Education

Applicants with undergraduate degrees from all other accredited universities with a GPA lower than 2.75 (undergraduate and graduate) must achieve a GAP (GRE score multiplied by the undergraduate GPA) score of 2200 or higher and a GRE Analytical Writing score of 3.5 or higher and have a valid teaching certificate for elementary education. A copy of the certificate must be submitted with the application.

Applicants to the MAE program in Special Education must hold or be eligible to hold a teaching certificate OR have a valid program on file with the Office of Teacher Services. (Note: Conversion program must be completed prior to or simultaneously with the MAE.)

Applicants whose certificates have expired may be admitted, but they may enroll for only six hours before they must apply to the EPSB for reissued certificates. After completion of six hours, a student admitted with an expired certificate must submit a copy of the reissued certificate before being allowed to register for any additional courses.

Application and all supporting materials (i.e., transcripts, GRE scores) need to be received by The Graduate School by the dates listed below to ensure adequate time for departmental review. Applicants can apply online at www.wku.edu/graduate.

Application Deadlines

Fall Semester: June 15

Spring Semester: November 15

Summer Term: Contact program advisor, Dr. Gail Kirby at gail.kirby@wku.edu.

Program Requirements

The Special Education program requires 37 hours. The required courses are decided based on concentration.

Required Courses:

Learning and Behavioral

TCHL 500 (3 hours)
TCHL 530 (3 hours)
TCHL 560 (3 hours)
TCHL 540 (1 hour)
TCHL 544 (1 hour)
TCHL 548 (1 hour)
TCHL 550 (1 hour)
TCHL 554 (1 hour)
TCHL 558 (2 hours)
SPED 518 (3 hours)
SPED 530 (3 hours)
SPED 531 (3 hours)
SPED 532 (3 hours)
SPED 533 (3 hours)
SPED 630 (3 hours)
SPED 595 (3 hours)
*SPED 516 (3 hours)

Moderate and Severe

TCHL 500 (3 hours)
TCHL 530 (3 hours)
TCHL 560 (3 hours)
TCHL 540 (1 hour)
TCHL 544 (1 hour)
TCHL 548 (1 hour)
TCHL 550 (1 hour)
TCHL 554 (1 hour)
TCHL 558 (2 hours)
SPED 630 (3 hours)
SPED 530 (3 hours)
SPED 595 (3 hours)
SPED 535 or SPED 615 (3 hours)
SPED 518 or SPED 618 (3 hours)
SPED 532 or SPED 612 (3 hours)
SPED 619 (3 hours)
*SPED 516 (3 hours)

Total – 37 hours

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*Students who enter the program without having completed a previous introductory special education course must take SPED 516 – this will add an additional 3 hours to the required 37 hour program.

Program Completion Requirements

Students must successfully complete TCHL 560 with a course grade of C or higher and present research results in an approved venue.

Students must achieve a minimum 3.0 gpa overall and in program course work.

Financial Aid

Eligibility

Financial Aid includes grants and loans for educational purposes. The government requires the student to file a form online to the government agency for this purpose which is called FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov to apply. Once that form is completed and filed, the student will receive an email from WKU about the status. All financial aid

comes through the WKU Student Financial Aid office and they communicate mostly through email. The email will explain all the grants and/or loans that are available to the student and how to receive the money.

Nearly all students are eligible for some form of financial assistance. In fact, over 90% of the students who applied for financial aid in recent years received an award offer. Every effort is made to assist you and your family in obtaining the resources necessary to meet the difference between the total cost of attending Western Kentucky University and your ability to contribute toward your education.

If you would like to apply for financial assistance (loans, grants, scholarships, veteran's benefits) the first step is to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Please refer to the Financial Aid Guide for additional information and complete instructions.

Please keep in mind, student must maintain satisfactory academic progress to continue to qualify for financial aid. For additional information on receiving, and keeping your financial aid, please refer to the WKU Financial Aid website to review the complete policy on Satisfactory Academic Progress at <http://www.wku.edu/financialaid/sap.php>.

Contact Information

Program Contact: Dr. Gail Kirby

Web: <http://wku.edu/ste/sped/graduate.php>

Email: gail.kirby@wku.edu

Phone: (270) 745-3746

WKU Online

Email: learn.online@wku.edu

Phone: (270) 745-5173

Toll-Free: (888) 4WKUWEB / (888) 495-8932