



## GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

Western Kentucky University

College of Education and Behavioral Sciences

School of Teacher Education

PROGRAM	Is this the right program for you?	What are the requirements to be admitted? What is my first step?	Required Courses & Program Notes
<b>MAE SPECIAL EDUCATION: LEARNING AND BEHAVIOR DISORDERS (REF# 0457)</b> <b>30-37 credit hours</b> <b>ONLINE*</b>	This is an advanced preparation Teacher Leader program designed for those students who hold teacher certification or a statement of eligibility in any area and seek to pursue their master's degree in special education and/or add certification for Exceptional Children Learning and Behavior Disorders	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Applicants who are alumni of WKU teacher preparation programs must have or be eligible for a teaching certificate and must submit a copy of the certificate or statement of eligibility with their applications.</li><li>2. Applicants who completed their initial certification program at another Kentucky institution with at least a 2.75 GPA for all previous coursework (undergraduate and graduate) must have or be eligible for a teaching certificate and must submit a copy of the certificate or statement of eligibility with their applications.</li><li>3. Applicants who complete their initial certification program at an accredited out-of-state institution with at least a 2.75 GPA for all previous coursework (undergraduate and graduate) must have or be eligible for a teaching certificate and must submit a copy of the certificate or statement of eligibility with their applications.</li></ol> <p>Admission Deadlines: Along with all graduate studies admission deadlines (see current graduate catalog), for priority consideration for admission, students should submit application materials to graduate studies by the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Summer Admission: March 1</li><li>◆ Fall Admission: May 1</li></ul>	<p>TCHL 500 (3 hours) TCHL 530 (3 hours) TCHL 560 (3 hours) TCHL 545 (3 hours) TCHL 555 (3 hour) TCHL 559 (1 hour) 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)</p> <p><i>*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 program.</i></p> <p><b>PROGRAM COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS</b> 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.</p>

		<p>◆ Spring Admission: November 1</p> <p>Students submitting materials after the above deadline dates cannot be guaranteed that applications will be reviewed in time for admission for the upcoming term nor that course space will be available.</p> <p>FIRST STEP: APPLY THROUGH GRADUATE STUDIES ONLINE AT <a href="http://www.wku.edu/graduate/prospective_students/">http://www.wku.edu/graduate/prospective_students/</a></p>	
<p><b>MAE SPECIAL EDUCATION: MODERATE AND SEVERE DISABILITIES (REF # 0438)</b> <b>30-37 credit hours ONLINE*</b></p>	<p>This is an advanced preparation Teacher Leader program designed for those students who hold teacher certification or a statement of eligibility in any area and seek to pursue their master's degree in special education and/or add certification for Exceptional Children Moderate and Severe Disabilities</p> <p><i>NOTE: WKU does not offer a program leading to Moderate and Severe Disabilities certification for those seeking initial certification.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Applicants who are alumni of WKU teacher preparation programs must have or be eligible for a teaching certificate and must submit a copy of the certificate or statement of eligibility with their applications.</li> <li>2. Applicants who completed their initial certification program at another Kentucky institution with at least a 2.75 GPA for all previous coursework (undergraduate and graduate) must have or be eligible for a teaching certificate and must submit a copy of the certificate or statement of eligibility with their applications.</li> <li>3. Applicants who complete their initial certification program at an accredited out-of-state institution with at least a 2.75 GPA for all previous coursework (undergraduate and graduate) must have or be eligible for a teaching certificate and must submit a copy of the certificate or statement of eligibility with their applications.</li> </ol> <p>Admission Deadlines: Along with all graduate studies admission deadlines (see current graduate catalog), for priority consideration for admission, students should submit application materials to graduate studies by the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Summer Admission: March 1</li> <li>◆ Fall Admission: May 1</li> <li>◆ Spring Admission: November 1</li> </ul>	<p>TCHL 500 (3 hours) TCHL 530 (3 hours) TCHL 560 (3 hours) TCHL 545 (3 hours) TCHL 555 (3 hour) TCHL 559 (1 hour) 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)</p> <p>Total – 37 hours</p> <p><i>* 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 program.</i></p> <p><b>PROGRAM COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS</b> 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.</p>

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<p><b>Special Education Initial Certification: Learning and Behavior Disorders (P-12)</b> <b>(REF # 0456)</b></p>	<p>This is an initial preparation program designed for those students who have a bachelor's degree in any area and who wish to pursue their master's degree in special education and earn teacher certification for Exceptional Children with Learning and Behavior Disorders.</p> <p>FIELD EXPERIENCE AND PRACTICUM ARE REQUIRED IN THIS PROGRAM</p>	<p>To be considered for admission, applicants must submit the following to the Office of Graduate Studies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete an online Graduate Studies application. The application can be found at: <a href="http://www.wku.edu/graduate/prospective_students/">(http://www.wku.edu/graduate/prospective_students/)</a></li> <li>2. Document completion of a bachelor's degree with a major, or equivalent, in an approved subject area and from an accredited institution. (for special education, we accept any undergraduate degree)</li> <li>3. Present a letter of application (including professional goals). Document a cumulative overall grade point average (GPA) of 2.75 or above (counting all course work, undergraduate or graduate) OR a GPA of 3.0 in the last 30 hours of coursework (counting all course work, undergraduate and graduate).</li> <li>4. Submit the Kentucky state required passing score on the Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST). <i>THIS MEANS THAT STUDENTS MUST HAVE THE PASSING SCORE ON THE PPST BEFORE THEY MAY BE ADMITTED. PPST (PRAXIS I)</i> minimum score of 174 in writing, 174 in math and a 176 in reading. For information on registering for the PPST, visit <a href="http://www.ets.org">www.ets.org</a>.</li> <li>5. Submit documentation to satisfy partial criteria for admission to the WKU Teacher Education Program (Pages 2-9), including three letters of references, physical including TB test, signed commitment to uphold the Code of Ethics for Kentucky School Certified Personnel (page 6), and Kentucky State Police Background check.</li> <li>6. Students who have not had an introductory-level special education course within the past ten years must complete SPED 516 The Exceptional Child Perspectives and Issues, as</li> </ol>	<p>SPED 515 (3 hours) LME 535 (3 hours) PSY 510 (3 hours) SPED 518 ( 3hours) SPED 530 (3 hours) LTCY 519 (3 hours) SPED 534 ( 3 hours) SPED 533 ( 3 hours) SPED 531 (3 hours) SPED 630 (3 hours) SPED 590 (6 hours)</p> <p>Total – 36 hours</p> <p><i>Students must be fully admitted to the professional education unit (teacher admissions) before enrolling in SPED 531 and SPED 590.</i></p> <p><i>Students must have a passing score on the appropriate state required Praxis II exams prior to enrolling in SPED 590.</i></p> <p><i>Students currently teaching in a classroom serving students with LBD (p-12) may use their current teaching position to meet the SPED 590 internship requirements with advisor approval. Students not currently teaching IN A CLASSROOM SERVING STUDENTS WITH LBD (P-12) must complete an internship experience, within the WKU service region, that is equivalent to state requirements for student teaching in A</i></p>

		<p>a deficiency prior to enrollment in any of the MAT courses for Special Education.</p> <p>ADMISSION DEADLINES: Along with all graduate studies admission deadlines (see current graduate catalog), for priority consideration for admission to the Special Education Initial Certification: Learning and Behavior Disorders MAT program, students should submit application materials to graduate studies by the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Summer Admission: March 1</li> <li>◆ Fall Admission: May 1</li> <li>◆ Spring Admission: November 1</li> </ul> <p>Students submitting materials after the above deadline dates cannot be guaranteed that applications will be reviewed in time for admission for the upcoming term nor that course space will be available.</p> <p>FIRST STEP: APPLY THROUGH GRADUATE STUDIES ONLINE AT <a href="http://www.wku.edu/graduate/prospective_students/">http://www.wku.edu/graduate/prospective_students/</a></p>	<p><i>CLASSROOM SERVING STUDENTS WITH LBD (P-12).</i></p> <p><b>PROGRAM COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS</b> Students must successfully complete the internship course, SPED 590 with a course grade of C or higher, and complete a proficient or exemplary teacher work sample as their capstone experience.</p> <p>Students must achieve a minimum 3, 0 cumulative GPA overall and in program course work.</p>
<p><b>AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS CERTIFICATE (REF # 0441)</b> <b>15 credit hours</b> <b>ONLINE*</b></p>	<p>This is a 15 hour certificate only program for those students who wish to gain expertise in the education of students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Twelve of the 15 hours may be included in the MAE in MSD program as part of the program of studies.</p> <p>FIELD EXPERIENCE AND PRACTICUM ARE REQUIRED IN THIS PROGRAM</p>	<p>This certificate program is open to students who have completed a master's degree or higher in any of the following programs: Education, Exceptional Education, Literacy, School Psychology, Communication Disorders, Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy, Mental Health Counseling, Nursing or Public Health OR are completing a master's degree in special education Moderate and Severe Disabilities. It may also be appropriate for professionals in related areas seeking to learn more about individuals who have been diagnosed with ASD.</p> <p>GRADUATE STUDIES ADMISSIONS DEADLINES APPLY</p> <p>FIRST STEP: APPLY THROUGH GRADUATE STUDIES ONLINE AT <a href="http://www.wku.edu/graduate/prospective_students/">http://www.wku.edu/graduate/prospective_students/</a></p>	<p>SPED 610 (3 hours)</p> <p>SPED 612 (3 hours)</p> <p>SPED 615 (3 hours)</p> <p>SPED 618 (3 hours)</p> <p>SPED 619 (3 hours)</p>
<p><b>DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION</b></p>	<p>This 30 hour program leads to eligibility for administrative</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must submit an application to graduate studies, including a copy of current, valid teaching certificate</li> </ul>	

<b>RANK I (REF # 0426)</b> <b>30 credit hours</b> <b>ONLINE*</b>	certification as a Level I Director of Special Education and a Rank I. (To be eligible for Level II Director of Special Education, students must complete their first 5 years as a DoSE and add an additional 6 credit hours)	for exceptional children or school psychologist. Students should indicate on their application the number of years' experience completed in a position serving exceptional children as a classroom teacher or school psychologist. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must have a master's degree from an accredited institution.</li> <li>• Must be recommended for admission by Special Education faculty admission committee.</li> <li>• Must have a 3.2 GPA or above on all graduate course work.</li> </ul> GRADUATE STUDIES ADMISSIONS DEADLINES APPLY FIRST STEP: APPLY THROUGH GRADUATE STUDIES ONLINE AT <a href="http://www.wku.edu/graduate/prospective_students/">http://www.wku.edu/graduate/prospective_students/</a>	
<b>DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION ENDORSEMENT (REF# 132)</b> <b>27 credit hours</b> <b>ONLINE*</b>	This 27 hour program leads to eligibility for administrative certification as a Level I Director of Special Education. (To be eligible for Level II Director of Special Education, students must complete their first 5 years as a DoSE and add an additional 6 credit hours)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must submit an application to graduate studies, including a copy of current, valid teaching certificate for exceptional children or school psychologist. Students should indicate on their application the number of years' experience completed in a position serving exceptional children as a classroom teacher or school psychologist.</li> <li>• Must have a master's degree from an accredited institution.</li> <li>• Must be recommended for admission by Special Education faculty admission committee.</li> <li>• Must have a 3.2 GPA or above on all graduate course work.</li> </ul> GRADUATE STUDIES ADMISSIONS DEADLINES APPLY FIRST STEP: APPLY THROUGH GRADUATE STUDIES ONLINE AT <a href="http://www.wku.edu/graduate/prospective_students/">http://www.wku.edu/graduate/prospective_students/</a>	
<b>MILD TO MODERATE DISABILITIES CERTIFICATION ONLY (Ref # 132)</b> <b>15 credit hours</b> <b>ONLINE</b>	This 15 hour certification only program is designed for post-baccalaureate Special Educators who desire to obtain additional certification in Exceptional Education: Mild to Moderate Disabilities Practicum is required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must submit an application to graduate studies, including a copy of current, valid teaching certificate for Exceptional Education: Moderate to Severe (MSD)</li> <li>• Must either have 3 years teaching experience in MSD or a Masters in MSD</li> </ul> GRADUATE STUDIES ADMISSIONS DEADLINES APPLY FIRST STEP: APPLY THROUGH GRADUATE STUDIES ONLINE AT <a href="http://www.wku.edu/graduate/prospective_students/">http://www.wku.edu/graduate/prospective_students/</a>	Required Courses (12 hours): SPED 533 SPED 517 EDU 522 SPED 595 Elective (3 hours): SPED 532 LTCY 523 ID 560

<b>MODERATE TO SEVERE DISABILITIES CERTIFICATION ONLY (Ref # 132) 15 credit hours ONLINE</b>	This 15 hour certification only program is designed for post-baccalaureate Special Educators who desire to obtain additional certification in Exceptional Education: Moderate to Severe Disabilities Practicum is required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must submit an application to graduate studies, including a copy of current, valid teaching certificate for Exceptional Education: Mild to Moderate (LBD)</li> <li>• Must either have 3 years teaching experience in LBD or a Masters in LBD</li> </ul> GRADUATE STUDIES ADMISSIONS DEADLINES APPLY FIRST STEP: APPLY THROUGH GRADUATE STUDIES ONLINE AT <a href="http://www.wku.edu/graduate/prospective_students/">http://www.wku.edu/graduate/prospective_students/</a>	LME 535 Required Courses (9 hours): SPED 535 SPED 517 SPED 595 Electives (6 hours) SPED 534 SPED 618 SPED 619 EDU 522 LTCY 523 ID 560 LME 535
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\*ONLINE PROGRAM NOTE: Although All SPED and TCHL courses are offered online as web courses, students may be required to come to the main campus periodically throughout their programs for advising, special meetings or events, and non-SPED courses that may or may not be offered online.

For Additional Information:

**Special Education Program Questions** – Contact one of the Special Education Program Faculty/Advisors: Dr. Gail Kirby – [gail.kirby@wku.edu](mailto:gail.kirby@wku.edu), Dr. Dusteen Knotts – [jdusteen.knotts@wku.edu](mailto:jdusteen.knotts@wku.edu), Dr. Christina Noel - [christina.noel@wku.edu](mailto:christina.noel@wku.edu), Dr. Susan Keesey – [susan.keesey@wku.edu](mailto:susan.keesey@wku.edu), Dr. Wanda Chandler – [wanda.chandler@wku.edu](mailto:wanda.chandler@wku.edu), OR Dr. Janet Applin – [janet.applin@wku.edu](mailto:janet.applin@wku.edu)

Questions about application and graduate school – Contact Graduate Studies & Research at 270-745-2446

*Information subject to change based upon program revisions*

*Information is current as of April, 2015*