# M.A.Ed. in ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

*Fact Sheet*

Western Carolina University

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- 100% online programming totaling 30 credit hours
- Versatile program allows candidates to choose between concentrations in Academically and Intellectually Gifted (AIG) instruction and Literacy

## COURSEWORK

- Core coursework (12 credit hours) focused on Assessment, Diversity, Leadership, and Research
- Literacy concentration coursework (12 credit hours) prepares candidates to serve as lead teachers and be recognized as literacy specialists at the school and district levels.
- AIG concentration coursework (12 credit hours) prepares candidates to work the AIG population at the K-6 level and includes courses focused on curriculum differentiation, creative thinking and problem solving, and methods for gifted instruction
- Action Research Capstone course work (6 credit hours) focused on research planning, design, implementation, and reporting.


**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**
**stl.wcu.edu or graduate.wcu.edu**

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LAST UPDATED: 06/2015


## FAST FACTS

- Total Credits Required: 30
- Both AIG and Literacy Concentrations lead to recommendation for Master's level licensure in Elementary Education.
- AIG concentration also enables candidates to apply for recommendation for initial, add-on licensure in AIG
- Program can be completed in as little as two years and is aligned to the National Board Teaching Standards and the North Carolina Professional Teaching Standards
- In addition to the Graduate School Admission requirements, applicants must submit:
  - A letter of intent describing reasons for pursuing a masters' degree in education, professional goals as a participant in the program, and possible research interests.
  - Three recommendations from former instructors or employers who can judge the applicant's aptitude for graduate study.
- Applicants must hold a North Carolina Class A teaching license, or a comparable license from another state.

## ACCREDITATIONS AND AFFILIATIONS

- College of Education and Allied Professions
  - National Distinguished Program in Teacher Education Award Recipient
  - National Christa McAuliffe Award for Excellence in Teacher Education
- School of Teaching and Learning
  - SACS (Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools)
  - National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE)/Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)

# M.A.Ed. IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

**Overall requirements:**

30 total credit hours (**completely online)**

| Required Core (12 credit hours): | Goals | Credit hours |
|---|---|---|
| EDCI 609: Assessment of Instruction | Assessment | 3 |
| ***Choose one of the following:***<br>• SPED 620: Education in a Diverse Society<br>• SPED 640: Universal Design for Learning | Diversity | 3 |
| EDCI 616: Advanced Studies in Teacher Leadership | Leadership | 3 |
| EDRS 602: Methods of Research | Research | 3 |

**Required ELMG Capstone Courses (6 credit hours):**
ELMG 609: Classroom Research Design for Elementary and Middle Grades Education
ELMG 697: Research Seminar in Elementary and Middle Grades Education

**Required Courses in Optional Tracks (12 credit hours):** Must choose AIG ***OR*** Literacy

| AIG Courses (12 credit hours): | Literacy Courses (12 credit hours): |
|---|---|
| • SPED 500: Creative Thinking and Problem Solving<br>• SPED 571: Introduction to Gifted Education<br>• SPED 575: Models and Methods of Gifted Education<br>• SPED 577: Curriculum Differentiation for Gifted Learners | • ELMG 655: Content Area Reading in the Subject Areas<br>• ELMG 668: Instructional Design & Technology Literacy<br>• EDRD 631: Intensive Study of Writing<br>• EDRD 640: Reading Diagnosis and Instruction |

**Course rotation**: Courses are not required to be taken at this pace, but this rotation assures 2 year completion.

| | Fall Even<br>(e.g. Fall 2016, 2018, etc.) | Spring Odd<br>(e.g. Spring 2017, 2019, etc.) | Summer Odd<br>(e.g. Summer 2017, 2019, etc.) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Core** | Diversity Core (SPED 640: Universal Design for Learning or SPED 620) | Assessment Core (EDCI 609: Assessment of Instruction) | Leadership Core (EDCI 616: Advanced Studies in Teacher Leadership) |
| **AIG Track** | SPED 571: Introduction to Gifted Education | SPED 575: Models and Methods of Gifted Education | SPED 500: Creative Thinking and Problem Solving (1 week residential field experience at WCU required)<br><br>SPED 577: Curriculum Differentiation for Gifted Learners |
| **Literacy Track** | ELMG 668: Instructional Design & Technology Literacy | EDRD 640: Reading Diagnosis and Instruction | ELMG 655: Content Area Reading in the Subject Areas<br><br>EDRD 631: Intensive Study of Writing |
| | Fall Odd<br>(e.g. Fall 2017, 2019, etc.) | Spring Even<br>(e.g. Spring 2018, 2020, etc.) | Summer Even<br>(e.g. Summer 2018, 2020, etc.) |
| **Core** | Research Core (EDRS 602 Methods of Research) | | |
| **Capstone** | ELMG 609: Classroom Research Design for Elementary and Middle Grades Education | ELMG 697: Research Seminar in Elementary and Middle Grades Education | |