

MAED Checklist: K-12 Special Education – Gifted, Innovative, and Creative

30 Total Semester Hours
Western Carolina University

NOTE: All courses in this program may have some level of field or clinical experience that requires additional time beyond class meetings and assignments. Consider time for field experiences when planning your schedule.

All courses are 3 credit hours. Also required:

- Subscribe to the electronic portfolio (*requires subscription fee*) - edportfolio.wcu.edu

Professional Core (12 hours)

EDCI 609	Assessment of Instruction
EDCI 610	Methods of Research
EDCI 616	Advanced Studies in Teacher Leadership
SPED 620 -OR- SPED 640	Education in a Diverse Society Universal Design for Learning

Gifted, Creative, and Innovative Education Content Requirement (12 hours)

SPED 500	Creative Thinking and Problem Solving*
SPED 571	Foundations of Gifted and Creative Education: Entrepreneurial Innovation
SPED 575	Methods and Models of Gifted and Creative Education
SPED 684	Social and Emotional Issues of Exceptional Learners

***SPED 500 requires a week-long practicum on WCU's Cullowhee Campus.**

Methods Electives Requirement – Choose TWO (6 hours)

Electives (Choose 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EDCI 646 (Using Technology to Differentiate and Personalize Instruction) – <i>preferred</i>• ENT 601 (Entrepreneurial Innovation)• SPED 577 (Curriculum Differentiation for Gifted and Creative Learners)
-------------------------	---

Other Requirements:

- Successfully complete Comprehensive Portfolio (edportfolio.wcu.edu)
- Apply for graduation
 - In October for following Spring graduation; in March for following Summer or Fall graduation
- Apply for NC advanced degree licensure
 - Licensure specialist: 828.227.3431; licensure website: teacherlicensure.wcu.edu

Program Coordinator: Dr. Lisa Bloom — 828.227.3288 or bloom@wcu.edu

Advisor: Bridget Lopez — 828.227.2000 or blopez@wcu.edu

Additional Information

MAED K-12 Special Education: Gifted, Creative, and Innovative Education

Maintaining a 3.0 GPA

Students are required to maintain a WCU GPA of 3.0 or higher in the special education graduate program. A graduate student who accumulates three grades of C, or any grade of F, will be dismissed from the Graduate School. Students in the program must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher to be recommended for licensure by WCU.

MAED Comprehensive Portfolio

The Comprehensive Portfolio is an organized set of documents and artifacts illustrating the graduate teacher candidate's growth as a self-directed, reflective practitioner. The MAED programs use the Comprehensive Portfolio to provide evidence that the candidate has addressed each of the Professional Education Core Themes of the graduate Comprehensive Education program. The core themes are: assessment, differentiation/diversity, leadership, and research. The portfolio also acknowledges the North Carolina Standards for Graduate Teacher Candidates' advanced competencies required for licensure.

The Comprehensive Portfolio is due in the electronic portfolio system during the last semester of the MAED program (March 15 or October 15). All students in MAED programs are required to be enrolled in, and maintain a current subscription to, the electronic portfolio.

Subscription fees are required for the electronic portfolio. Faculty members from the Special Education program will review and assess your portfolio. For more information, visit edportfolio.wcu.edu.

Licensure

Successful completion of the MAED: Gifted, Creative, and Innovative Education leads to recommendation for an NC advanced degree license in K-12 Academically Gifted (88087). Candidates must first have an initial teaching license in this area before they may be recommended for an advanced degree license. If a candidate does not have an existing initial license in this area, in order to be recommended for the advanced license, the candidate must acquire, or add-on, the initial license. This is most often accomplished by meeting the state's requirements (including licensure testing) and applying for the initial license through NCDPI.

Financial Aid Opportunities

- [Tuition and Funding](#) | [FELS – Forgivable Education Loans for Service](#) | WCU is a [TEACH grant](#) partner
- For more financial aid opportunities, please visit:
 - [WCU Financial Aid website](#) | [WCU scholarships information website](#) | scholarcat.wcu.edu

Get Connected

For additional information about the special education program, go to spedgrad.wcu.edu

Please visit our Facebook page at [Western Carolina University Special Education Graduate Programs](#).