

MAED Checklist: K-12 Special Education – Severe/Profound Disabilities

33 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 in Research
EDCI 616	Advanced Studies in Teacher Leadership
SPED 620 -OR- SPED 640	Education in a Diverse Society Universal Design for Learning

Severe/Profound Disabilities Content Requirement (18 hours)

SPED 528	Programs and Services for Individuals with Severe/Profound Disabilities	
SPED 530	Assessment and Functional Skill Instruction in the Adapted Curriculum	*field experience*
SPED 534	Positive Behavior Supports for Students with Severe Disabilities, Adapted	*field experience*
SPED 586	Assessing the Adapted Curriculum: Intern I	*field experience*
SPED 633	Collaboration with Families and Professionals	
SPED 687	Practicum in Special Education	*field experience*

Elective Requirement – Select ONE (3 hours)

Elective (Choose 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">EDCI 646 (Using Technology to Differentiate and Personalize Instruction)SPED 635 (Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorders)SPED 636 (Evidence-Based Methods for Teaching Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders)SPED 682 (Research in Special Education)
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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. Karena Cooper-Duffy — 828.227.3285 or kcooper@wcu.edu

Advisor: Greg McLamb — 828.227.3755 or gmclamb@wcu.edu

Additional Information

MAED: K-12 Special Education – Severe/Profound Disabilities

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.

Practicum (SPED 687)

Advanced Practicum for Special Education MAED students is required for advanced licensure. Practicum experiences will be developed with program faculty and practicum supervisor based on the candidate's needs, interests and professional goals. The scope and complexity of the project will vary by candidate. The requirements are specific to your concentration and typically include an action research project documented with journal entries, videotapes of teaching, etc. Practicum may include experience teaching students with disabilities or gifted students and documentation of planning, implementing and evaluating instruction for students. This documentation can occur through instruction of EC or gifted students in the candidate's classroom; instruction outside the candidate's classroom in an after-school program or resource room through direct contact; or placement in an applicable setting for candidates who are not employed. Candidates who are currently not teaching full-time but in a supervision or leadership role will be expected to have significant experience in program and curriculum development for EC or gifted students. MAED candidates can expect to complete about 145 field experience hours during SPED 687. Application for Advanced Practicum is due early in the semester before you plan to do the practicum (February for Fall Practicum and September for Spring Practicum). No late applications will be accepted. The application is submitted electronically, and details are sent via Catamount email.

Licensure

Successful completion of the MAED: Severe/Profound Disabilities leads to recommendation for an NC advanced degree license in K-12 Severely/Profoundly Disabled (88002). 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](#).