

Alternative Licensure / MAT Checklist: K-12 Special Education – General Curriculum

39 Credit Hours

Western Carolina University

NOTE: All courses in this program 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
- Comprehensive background check as part of application to Teacher Education (*requires fee*)

Phase I

Licensure coursework (30 hours)

Completion of the below coursework is an alternative licensure path that leads to certification and recommendation for an NC initial teaching license.

EDCI 500	Introduction to Teaching (<i>Core</i>)	
EDCI 609	Assessment of Instruction (<i>Core</i>)	
SPED 555	Culturally Responsive Classroom Management for Exceptional Learners (<i>Core</i>)	
SPED 639	Teaching Exceptional Learners in Inclusive Classrooms (<i>Core</i>)	
EDCI 646	Using Technology to Differentiate and Personalize Instruction	
SPED 506	Advanced Methods to Teach Students with High Incidence Disabilities	<i>*part-time internship*</i>
SPED 562*	Best Practices for Teaching Reading & Written Language to Exceptional Learners	<i>*part-time internship*</i>
SPED 563*	Best Practices for Teaching Mathematics to Exceptional Learners	<i>*part-time internship*</i>
SPED 587**	Special Education Internship/Practicum	<i>*full-time internship*</i>
SPED 633	Collaboration with Families and Professionals	

SPED 562 or SPED 563 must be taken in the semester immediately prior to SPED 587 to satisfy Intern I requirements.

**Pre-requisite for SPED 562 & SPED 563 is SPED 506.*

***All other courses in Phase I must be completed prior to SPED 587. One non-internship course may be taken concurrently.*

Other Requirements for Phase I:

- Satisfactory completion of edTPA
- Complete Praxis II & Pearson exams
- Apply for NC initial teaching license
 - Licensure specialist: 828.227.3431; licensure website: teacherlicensure.wcu.edu

Phase II

Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) coursework (9 additional hours)

Completion of the below coursework will complete the M.A.T. path and lead to recommendation for an advanced teaching license. Students must be admitted to the MAT graduate program before enrolling in the courses below.

EDCI 616	Advanced Studies in Teacher Leadership (<i>Core - Phase II</i>)	
SPED 507	Behavioral and Social Needs of Exceptional Learners in the General Curriculum	
SPED 682	Research in Special Education	

Other Requirements for Phase II:

- 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

K-12 Special Education: General Curriculum

Admission to Teacher Education

WCU's College of Education and Allied Professions' national accreditation body, Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction require established procedures for implementing decisions regarding admission to, and retention in, teacher education programs. Students who plan to receive a degree or certification in education and a teaching license through WCU must apply for and be officially admitted to a teacher education program. This is a **separate and distinct application** from a student's application to the WCU Graduate School. Acceptance and registration in a department does not guarantee admission to the teacher education program in that department. The application process requires: (1) a formal application; (2) a background check via Certiphi.com (requires fee); (3) acknowledgment of professional dispositions; and (4) completion of the Personality Survey and Diversity Inventory within the electronic portfolio system. Links to forms and detailed instructions for applying to the teacher education program can be found at teachereducationapp.wcu.edu.

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.

Initial Licensure and the Praxis II & Pearson Exams

Students must pass the (1) Praxis II exam (5543); (2) Pearson: Foundations of Reading exam; and (3) EITHER Praxis: CKT Math Subtest (7803) OR Pearson: General Curriculum Math Subtest, before applying for initial licensure. Praxis II testing and registration information can be found on the Educational Testing Service website, by selecting North Carolina under "State Testing Requirements." Pearson information can be found at nc.nesinc.com. To apply for your NC teaching license, you will complete an online application to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). You can find licensing information, required forms, and supporting materials from WCU's Teacher and School Professional Licensure.

edTPA

WCU's teacher education programs use edTPA to demonstrate a record of the ways the student plans instruction, teaches lessons, and assesses and learns from the teaching experience during practicum. These are performance-related, and will be submitted for review to the North Carolina State Board of Education for each program completer. Information on this electronic portfolio can be found at edportfolio.wcu.edu. All students in the Alternative Licensure and MAT programs are required to be enrolled in and maintain a current subscription to the electronic portfolio. **Subscription fees are required for the electronic portfolio.** Download the requirements within the Clinical Practice Handbook on the Office of Field Experience website.

Practicum/Intern II (SPED 587)

SPED 587 (student teaching/internship/practicum) is designed as a semester-long supervised field experience in an accredited public school setting. Practicum should be completed in the subject and grades of the licensure concentration and should be fulfilled after all other coursework in Phase I is successfully finished. Application for practicum is due to your advisor and the Office of Field Experience 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. Details are sent through Catamount e-mail.

Lateral Entry Teachers/Residency Program

If you are a lateral entry teacher, you may use your own classroom to complete practicum, provided that you are working with the appropriate student population. Lateral entry teachers may not substitute past teaching experience for practicum.

MAT Comprehensive Portfolio

The Comprehensive Portfolio is due in the electronic portfolio system during the last semester of the MAT program (March 15 or October 15). Faculty members from the Special Education program will review and assess your portfolio. For more information, visit edportfolio.wcu.edu.

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](#).