

REASONS TO EARN A MASTER'S DEGREE IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

- Become leaders in the field of special education.
- Provide excellent mentoring and support to new teachers.
- Improve your competitiveness for leadership positions such as curriculum specialists, behavior specialist, placement specialist, lead teacher, and so forth.
- Get pay raises in most states¹.
- Well-prepared teachers produce higher student achievement and are more likely to stay in the profession².
- Students with teachers with master's degree may out perform other students. For example, national data for fourth and eighth grades indicate that students whose teachers have a master's degree score higher on reading assessments than those with teachers holding a bachelor's degree.
- Graduate school provides connection and camaraderie with others in the profession.
- Graduate programs provide great support and resources for teachers pursuing national board certification.
- Graduate programs keep professional educators connected with research and new developments in the field.
- A master's degree is a stepping-stone to a doctoral program in special education.
- Scholarships are available

¹National Center for Education Statistics(Department of Education) 2009. 2007-08 Retrieved from Schools and Staffing Survey http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/sass/tables/sasso708_2009320_d1s_02.asp

²NCATE. "What Makes a Teacher Effective?" (2006) Retrieved from <http://www.ncate.org/public/teachereffective.asp?ch=48>

The Nation's Report Card (2011) Retrieved from http://nationsreportcard.gov/reading_2011/

OUR PROGRAMS:

Masters of Education (M.A.Ed)

For those who already have a degree or licensure in elementary, birth through kindergarten, special education or a related content area.

- Gifted, Creative and Innovative Education
- Mild to Moderate Disabilities
- Severe Disabilities

Professional Development Credential (PDC)

An online opportunity to address real issues in today's classroom. Choose from one of these 3-course critical focus areas:

- Creativity and Differentiation
- Response to Intervention for Social and Emotional Behavior
- Collaboration with Families and Professionals.

PDC Courses apply to a master's degree.

Masters of Teaching (M.A.T.)

For those who do not have a degree in special education or a teaching license in a relevant area.

- General Curriculum (Mild to Moderate Disabilities)
- Adapted Curriculum (Severe Disabilities)

Why WCU?

- Each program leads to an advanced license in special education
- WCU's College of Education and Allied Professions is accredited through the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE)
- Rolling admission
- Graduate programs are online

FOR MORE INFORMATION — SPEDGRAD.WCU.EDU

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