

Western Carolina University
 Alternative Licensure / MAT Checklist for **K-12 Special Education – General Curriculum**
 Effective Fall 2016, 42 hours total

Phase I: Licensure coursework (27 hours) leading to a NC Standard Professional I teaching license		
All courses are 3 credit hours.	Term	Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subscribe to the electronic portfolio. (<i>Requires subscription fee.</i>) http://edportfolio.wcu.edu/ • Comprehensive Background Check as part of application to Teacher Education. (<i>Requires fee.</i>) 		
EDCI 609 Assessment for Instruction		
PSY 624 Child and Adolescent Development		
SPED 639 Teaching Exceptional Learners in Inclusive Classrooms		
EDCI 607 Foundations of Teacher Leadership in a Diverse Society		
SPED 506 Advanced Methods to Teach Students with High Incidence Disabilities		
SPED 555 Culturally Responsive Classroom Management for Exceptional Learners		
SPED 562 Best Practices for Teaching Reading and Written Language to Exceptional Learners		
SPED 563 Best Practices for Teaching Math to Exceptional Learners		
SPED 587 Initial Licensure Practicum		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satisfactory Completion of Initial Licensure portfolio • Complete Praxis II and Apply for NC Standard Professional I license, Licensure Specialist - 828-227-2000 Licensure Website – http://teacherlicensure.wcu.edu 		

Phase II: Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) coursework (15 additional hours) leading to an Advanced Degree license		
** Students must be admitted to the MAT graduate program before enrolling in the courses below.		
All courses are 3 credit hours.	Term	Grade
EDCI 616 Advanced Studies in Teacher Leadership		
EDRS 602 Methods of Research		
SPED 507 Behavioral and Social Needs of Exceptional Learners in the General Curriculum		
SPED 633 Collaboration with Families and Professionals		
SPED 682 Research in Special Education		
Other Requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successfully complete electronic portfolios http://edportfolio.wcu.edu/ (due Mar 15 or Oct 15, depending on graduation term) • Apply for Graduation (by October for following Spring Graduation, by March for following Summer or Fall graduation) • Apply for NC advanced degree licensure, Licensure Specialist - 828-227-2000 http://teacherlicensure.wcu.edu 		

Program Coordinator: Dr. Lisa Bloom, 828.227.3288 or bloom@wcu.edu
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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) acknowledgement 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 application to Teacher Education can be found at <http://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. A student who has been admitted provisionally and fails to meet the terms of the provisional admission will also be dismissed from the Graduate School. Students in the program must have a cumulative 3.0 GPA or higher to be recommended for licensure by WCU.

Initial Licensure and the Praxis and Pearson Exams

Students must pass the Praxis II exam (5543) and Pearson's NC Foundations of Reading/General Curriculum exams 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 <http://www.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 material from WCU's [Teacher and School Professional Licensure](#).

Electronic Evidences, edTPA and the Initial Licensure Portfolio

WCU's teacher education programs use electronic evidences to demonstrate a record of the ways the student plans instruction, teaches lessons, assesses and learns from the teaching experience during practicum. The evidences 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 <http://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 with electronic portfolio.** Download the requirements within the Internship/Student Teaching Handbook on the [Office of Field Experience website](#).

Practicum (SPED 587)

SPED 587 (student teaching/internship) is designed as a semester-long supervised field experience in an accredited public school setting. Practicum should be completed in the subject & 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 in catamount email.

Lateral Entry Teachers

If you are a lateral entry teacher you may use your own classroom to complete Practicum, as long as you are working with the appropriate student population. Lateral entry teachers are no longer able to substitute paid teaching experience for Practicum.

MAT Advanced Licensure Portfolio

The Advanced Licensure Portfolio is due in the electronic portfolio 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: <http://edportfolio.wcu.edu/>

Financial Aid Opportunities: (<http://spedgrad.wcu.edu>)

[Invest in Teachers Scholarship Program](#)

Graduate Tuition Awards

WCU is a [TEACH grant](#) partner.

For more financial opportunities, please visit the WCU Financial Aid website, <http://www.scholarships.wcu.edu> or <http://www.scholarcat.wcu.edu>.

Get Connected

For additional information about special education program go to <http://spedgrad.wcu.edu>

Please consider "Liking" us on Facebook at [Western Carolina University Special Education Graduate Programs](#).