

## MAED Checklist: K-12 Special Education – Mild-to-Moderate Disabilities

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.

### Professional Core (12 hours)

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

### Mild-to-Moderate Disabilities Content Requirement (15 hours)

SPED 504	Educational Programs for Students with Behavioral Disorders
SPED 505	Educational Programs for Students with Learning Problems
SPED 682	Research in Special Education
SPED 684	Social and Emotional Issues of Exceptional Learners
SPED 687	Practicum in Special Education

### Methods Electives Requirement – Select ONE (3 hours)

Electives (Choose 1)	<b>Choose one (1) from:</b>
	• EDCI 646 (Technology and Personalized Learning Environments)
	• SPED 500 (Creative Thinking and Problem Solving)
	• SPED 593 (Topics in Special Education)
	• SPED 633 (Collaboration with Families and Professionals)
	• SPED 635 (Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorders)
	• SPED 636 (Evidence-Based Mthds for Teach. Stdnts with Autism Spectrum Disorders)
	• Research Cognate (email advisor for options)

#### **Other Requirements:**

- 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](http://teacherlicensure.wcu.edu)

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## Additional Information

### **MAED: K-12 Special Education – Mild to Moderate 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.

#### **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: Mild-to-Moderate Disabilities leads to recommendation for an NC advanced degree license in K-12 Special Education: General Curriculum (88091). 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, whose educator's licensure requirements and licensure testing information can be found [here](#).

#### **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](#).