

WCU SPED MAT Program Advisory Board

April 20, 2021 Minutes

Virtual Meeting (Zoom), 5:00 pm

Attending:

P-12 Educators: Lori Long, Macon County; Renee Stillwell, Jackson County; Carolyn Barbee, Buncombe County; Rebecca Schaeffer, Newton-Conover; Amanda Parks, Henderson County

WCU Faculty: Charmion Rush, Brad Witzel, Dale Carpenter

Agenda:

1) Introductions

2) Program Highlights: Brad Witzel is the new Adelaide Worth Daniels Distinguished Professor of Education; Grant Opportunity – Project INTERACT; Special Education Program received Outstanding Program Award at WCU 2020; Replaced Research Course with new Introduction to Special Education course

3) Data: Program has 118 graduates students; 100% pass rate on edTPA for Fall 2020

4) Board Member Input

What is going on in the field that WCU should address in our programs?

- MTSS
- IEP Paperwork
- Writing Goals, Annual Growth Rate, Progress Monitoring
- Knowledge of “Executive Functioning” and how to help students’ executive functioning
- Collaboration with others, including specialists, in the school and community services
- Differentiation
- Specific reading and math programs
 - Types of programs/General knowledge
 - Scope and Sequence related to standards
 - How that program differentiates
 - Approach of different programs
- ECATS (state IEP software program)
- Use of different augmentative communication devices
- Assessments
 - How to measure progress with CBM; understanding the strengths and weaknesses of students
 - How to read reports, i.e., psychologist reports and case studies; what do scores mean
 - How to measure behavior and plan to improve behavior (writing behavior objectives, behavior plans that’s purposeful)
- Understand the “social-emotional piece” of the psychological reports; knowledge of trauma

What areas does the program seem to be preparing students well?

- WCU grads/interns are ready to jump in and demonstrate leadership; have a “can do” attitude
- Not afraid of the students with disabilities (especially the severe and profound)
- Friendly and hands-on; become part of the classroom
- Leadership abilities
- They plan lessons well and include UDL (Universal Design for Learning)
- Demonstrate professionalism
- Collaborate appropriately
- Willing to learn; “soak-in” information
- “Can do” attitude
- Collaborate well with related service providers (i.e. PT & OT)
- Good with technology
- Sensitive to cultural relevance in lessons and classroom climate

How can the WCU Special Education Program improve our communication with you?

- Faculty members are doing well with communication with teachers (Answer seems to be related to communication with Clinical Educators who have interns)

*Dale’s note – Participating P-12 members in the meeting seem to be commenting mostly based on their experiences hosting undergrad interns so these comments may be more about the undergraduate program. However, they seemed to include issues and practices that the participants are currently experiencing and their perceptions of areas needed by new special educators.