

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

- Comprehensive background check as part of application to Teacher Education (*requires fee*)

Phase I	Licensure Coursework (24 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	(Core) Introduction to Teaching
EDCI 609	(Core) Assessment of Instruction
SPED 534	(Core) Positive Behavior Supports for Students with Severe Disabilities, Advanced
SPED 639	(Core) Teaching Exceptional Learners in Inclusive Classrooms
SPED 530	Assessment and Functional Skill Instruction in the Adapted Curriculum
SPED 633	Collaboration with Families and Professionals
SPED 586	Assessing the Adapted Curriculum: Intern I *part-time internship*
SPED 587	Special Education Internship: Intern II *full-time internship*
SPED 586 must be taken in the semester immediately prior to SPED 587 to satisfy Intern I requirements.	
Other Requirements for Phase I: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satisfactory completion of edTPA • Complete Praxis II exams • Apply for NC initial teaching license <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Licensure specialist: 828.227.3431; licensure website: teacherlicensure.wcu.edu 	

Phase II	Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) Coursework (15 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	(Core – Phase II) Advanced Studies in Teacher Leadership
SPED 528	Programs and Services for Individuals with Severe/Profound Disabilities
SPED 635	Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorders
SPED 682	Research in Special Education
Specialty Area	Choose one (1) from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPED 636 (Evidence-Based Methods for Tchng Stdnts w/ Autism Spectrum Disorders) • EDCI 646 (Technology and Personalized Learning Environments) • EDCI 610 (Research Methods in Education) • SPED Pre-Approved Graduate Study Abroad Course
Other Requirements for Phase II: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply for graduation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In October for following Spring graduation; in March for following Summer or Fall graduation • Apply for NC advanced degree licensure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Licensure specialist: 828.227.3431; licensure website: teacherlicensure.wcu.edu 	

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Additional Information

K-12 Special Education: Adapted 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.

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. 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 email.

Residency License Teachers, Temporary/Emergency License Teachers

If you are a residency license (RL) teacher (or a teacher working other another temporary license, such as an Emergency License or Permit to Teach), you may use your own classroom to complete practicum, provided that you are working with the appropriate student population. RL teachers may not substitute past teaching experience for internship.

Licensure and the Praxis II

Students must pass the Praxis II exams (5547 **and** 5511) 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."

Successful completion of Phase I of the MAT: Special Education – Adapted Curriculum (including licensure exams and edTPA) leads to eligibility to be recommended for an **initial** teaching license in K-12 Special Education: Adapted Curriculum (88092). Successful completion of Phase I **and** Phase II of the MAT: Special Education – Adapted Curriculum leads to eligibility to be recommended for an **advanced** teaching license in K-12 Special Education: Adapted Curriculum (88092).

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](#).

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](#).