

SPECIAL EDUCATION, MEd

Banner Code: E1-MED-EDSE

Academic Advising

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Early Childhood Special Education

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This master's degree is designed to prepare both educators for the classroom and individuals working in a special education context outside of the classroom with the specialized skills and content knowledge needed to support the needs of individuals with disabilities. Students may focus their program on a specific area in the field by completing a licensure concentration or non-licensure certificate program in conjunction with the MEd to fulfill the elective credits for the MEd degree program.

Admissions & Policies

Policies

Students in the licensure concentrations must earn a B-or better in all licensure coursework. (This includes all required courses other than EDSE 517 and EDSE 590.) Prior to applying for internships students in all licensure concentrations, must successfully complete:

- Emergency First Aid, CPR and AED certification or training
- Virginia Communication & Literacy Assessment (VCLA)

Prior to graduation, students enrolled in the K-12 General Curriculum Licensure and PK-12 Blindness and Visual Impairments Licensure concentrations must complete:

- Praxis Teaching Reading: Elementary

Prior to graduation, students enrolled in the PK-12 Blindness and Visual Impairments Licensure concentration must complete:

- Praxis II: Braille Proficiency

Licensure testing requirements are determined by the Commonwealth of Virginia and may change at any time. If changes to these requirements occur, students must meet the current testing and licensure requirements as set forth in the legal Code of Virginia.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Total credits: 30-47

MEd without concentration (Non-licensure)

The 30-credit MEd in Special Education without concentration (Non-licensure) provides students the opportunity to individualize their program of study to work with children and adults with disabilities across their lifespan. Students who select this option do not complete licensure requirements. The Non-licensure option may be used as a pathway to doctoral studies.

Coursework

Code	Title	Credits
EDSE 501	Introduction to Special Education	3
EDSE 517	Computer Applications for Special Populations	3
EDSE 590	Special Education Research	3

Language Development and Reading 3

Select one from the following:

EDSE 503	Language Development and Reading	
EDSE 557	Foundations of Language and Literacy for Individuals with Severe Disabilities	
EDSE 625	Applied Behavior Analysis: Verbal Behavior	
EDSE 636	Supporting Communication and Literacy for Individuals with Autism	

Consultation and Collaboration 3

Select one from the following:

EDSE 637	Autism Across the Lifespan: Collaboration with Critical Partners	
EDSE 662	Consultation and Collaboration	
EDSE 663	Collaborative Teamwork to Support Students with Significant Disabilities	
EDSE 664	Ethical and Professional Conduct for Behavior Analysis	

Restricted Electives 15

Select from graduate EDAT courses (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/edat/>)

Select from graduate EDSE courses (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/edse/>)

Total Credits 30

MEd with concentration in K-12 Adapted Curriculum Licensure (KACL)

The 42 credit MEd in Special Education with concentration in K-12 Adapted Curriculum Licensure provides students the opportunity to focus on individuals with severe disabilities. Students will learn to develop teaching strategies and curricula that enable individuals with severe disabilities to access an adapted curriculum and address areas of functional and independent living skills. Students who have completed graduate or undergraduate coursework equivalent to concentration coursework prior to admission to this program may request that some courses in this concentration be waived. Students who are eligible to waive coursework must complete a minimum of 30 graduate-level credits to graduate. A grade of B- or better must be earned in all licensure coursework. In addition to coursework, students must complete mandated state/accreditation assessments.

Core Coursework

Code	Title	Credits
EDSE 501	Introduction to Special Education	3
EDSE 517	Computer Applications for Special Populations	3
EDSE 590	Special Education Research	3
Language Development and Reading		
EDSE 557	Foundations of Language and Literacy for Individuals with Severe Disabilities	3
Consultation and Collaboration		
EDSE 663	Collaborative Teamwork to Support Students with Significant Disabilities	3
Total Credits		15

Concentration Coursework

Code	Title	Credits
EDSE 531	Transition and Community-Based Instruction	3
EDSE 532	Positive Behavior Supports	3
EDSE 533	Assessment and Program Planning for Adapted Curriculum	3
EDSE 534	Communication and Severe Disabilities	3
EDSE 547	Characteristics of Students with Severe Disabilities	3
EDSE 661	Curriculum and Methods: Severe Disabilities	3
EDSE 669	Individualized Supports and Specialized Care of Students with Severe Disabilities	3
EDSE 784	Internship: Adapted Curriculum	6
Total Credits		27

MEd with concentration in K-12 General Curriculum Licensure (KGCL)

The 39-credit MEd in Special Education with concentration in K-12 General Curriculum Licensure provides students the opportunity to focus on individuals with mild to moderate disabilities. Students will be prepared to support students with disabilities who access the general academic curriculum in inclusive settings and provide direct instruction in special education settings as needed. Students who have completed graduate or undergraduate coursework equivalent to concentration coursework prior to admission to this program may request that some courses in this concentration be waived. Students who are eligible to waive coursework must complete a minimum of 30 graduate-level credits to graduate. A grade of B- or better must be earned in all licensure coursework. In addition to coursework, students must complete mandated state/accreditation assessments.

Core Coursework

Code	Title	Credits
EDSE 501	Introduction to Special Education	3
EDSE 517	Computer Applications for Special Populations	3
EDSE 590	Special Education Research	3
Language Development and Reading		
EDSE 503	Language Development and Reading	3
Consultation and Collaboration		

EDSE 662	Consultation and Collaboration	3
Total Credits		15

Concentration Coursework

Code	Title	Credits
EDSE 502	Classroom Management and Applied Behavior Analysis	3
EDSE 540	Characteristics of Students with Disabilities who Access the General Curriculum	3
EDSE 544	Adapted Instructional Methods and Transition for Secondary Learners	3
EDSE 627	Assessment	3
EDSE 641	Instructional Strategies for Reading and Writing	3
EDSE 643	Instructional Strategies for Math	3
EDSE 783	Internship: Special Education in General Curriculum	6
Total Credits		24

MEd with concentration in PK-12 Blindness and Visual Impairments Licensure (PBVL)

The 47-credit MEd in Special Education with concentration in PK-12 Blindness and Visual Impairments Licensure prepares students to work with blind and visually impaired individuals, including those who have multiple disabilities. Students learn to support individuals in both general and special education settings. Students who have completed graduate or undergraduate coursework equivalent to concentration coursework prior to admission to this program may request that some courses in this concentration be waived. Students who are eligible to waive coursework must complete a minimum of 30 graduate-level credits to graduate. A grade of B- or better must be earned in all licensure coursework. In addition to coursework, students must complete mandated state/accreditation assessments.

Core Coursework

Code	Title	Credits
EDSE 501	Introduction to Special Education	3
EDSE 517	Computer Applications for Special Populations	3
EDSE 590	Special Education Research	3
Language Development and Reading		
EDSE 503	Language Development and Reading	3
Consultation and Collaboration		
EDSE 663	Collaborative Teamwork to Support Students with Significant Disabilities	3
Total Credits		15

Concentration Coursework

Code	Title	Credits
EDAT 522	Assistive Technology for Individuals with Sensory Impairments	3
EDSE 511	Characteristics of Students with Blindness and Visual Impairments	3
EDSE 512	Braille Code	3
EDSE 513	Medical and Educational Implications of Blindness and Visual Impairments	3

EDSE 514	Orientation and Mobility for Students with Blindness and Visual Impairments	2
EDSE 518	Curriculum and Assessment of Students with Blindness and Visual Impairments	3
EDSE 532	Positive Behavior Supports	3
EDSE 613	Teaching Methods for Students with Blindness and Visual Impairments	3
EDSE 616	Braille Reading and Writing	3
EDSE 785	Internship: Blindness and Visual Impairments	6
Total Credits		32

MEd with concentration in Early Childhood Special Education (Non-licensure) (SPEC)

The 30-credit MEd in Special Education, concentration in Early Childhood Special Education (Non-licensure) is for professionals who already hold an early childhood special education teacher license or are interested in working in an early childhood special education context outside the classroom. Students who wish to seek early childhood education licensure are advised to instead consider completing the MEd in Special Education concentration in Early Childhood Special Education Licensure.

Coursework

Code	Title	Credits
ECED 503	Inclusive Curriculum for Young Learners: Planning Instruction and Guidance	3
ECED 505	Introduction to Early Childhood Special Education	3
ECED 506	Medical and Developmental Aspects of Disabilities of Diverse Young Learners	3
ECED 522	Developing Language, Literacy, and Communication of Diverse Infants and Toddlers	3
Choose one of the following:		3
ECED 601	Frameworks for Early Childhood Education	
ECED 685	Applied and Teacher Research in Early Childhood Education	
ECED 691	Policy Perspectives in Early Childhood Education	
Electives		15
Select 15 credits from graduate ECED courses or courses approved by an academic advisor (http://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/eced/)		
Total Credits		30

MEd with concentration in Early Childhood Special Education Licensure (SPCL)

This 36-credit MEd in Special Education, concentration in Early Childhood Special Education Licensure offers required coursework for teacher licensure in Early Childhood Special Education. Students who have completed graduate or undergraduate coursework equivalent to concentration coursework prior to admission to this program may request that some courses in this concentration be waived. Students who are eligible to waive coursework must complete a minimum of 30 graduate-level credits to graduate. A grade of B- or better must be earned

in all coursework. In addition to the ECED concentration coursework, students must complete mandated state/accreditation assessments.

Coursework

Code	Title	Credits
ECED 501	Developmental Pathways of Diverse Learners, Birth-Adolescence	3
ECED 502	Foundations of Language and Literacy for Diverse Young Learners, Birth-Age 5	3
ECED 503	Inclusive Curriculum for Young Learners: Planning Instruction and Guidance	3
ECED 504	Engaging Families of Diverse Young Learners	3
ECED 505	Introduction to Early Childhood Special Education	3
ECED 506	Medical and Developmental Aspects of Disabilities of Diverse Young Learners	3
ECED 511	Assessment of Diverse Young Learners	3
ECED 522	Developing Language, Literacy, and Communication of Diverse Infants and Toddlers	3
ECED 523	Early Intervention for Infants Toddlers with Disabilities: Collaborative Consultative Approaches	3
ECED 781	Seminar in Early Childhood Education	3
ECED 789	Internship in Early Childhood Special Education Birth - Five	6
Total Credits		36

Accelerated Master's

Bachelor's Degree (any)/Special Education, Accelerated MEd

Overview

Highly-qualified undergraduates may be admitted to the bachelor's/accelerated master's program and obtain a BA or BS in any degree area and an MEd in Special Education (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/education-human-development/school-education/special-education-med/#text>) in an accelerated time-frame after satisfactory completion of a minimum of 138 credits.

See AP.6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degree (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/education-human-development/school-education/>) for policies related to this program.

Students in an accelerated degree program must fulfill all university requirements for the master's degree. For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP.6 Graduate Policies (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#text>).

BAM Pathway Admission Requirements

Applicants to all graduate programs at George Mason University must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in Graduate Admissions Policies (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-policies/>) and Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degree (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-7>) policies. For information specific to this accelerated master's program, see Application Requirements

and Deadlines (<https://cehd.gmu.edu/bachelors-accelerated-masters-program/>).

Students will be considered for admission into the BAM Pathway after completion of a minimum of 60 credits, and additional unit-specific criteria (see Application Requirements and Deadlines) (<https://cehd.gmu.edu/bachelors-accelerated-masters-program/>).

Students who are accepted into the BAM Pathway will be allowed to register for graduate level courses after successful completion of a minimum of 75 undergraduate credits and course-specific pre-requisites.

Accelerated Master's Admission Requirements

Students already admitted in the BAM Pathway will be admitted to the MEd program, if they have met the following criteria, as verified on the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition form:

- 3.0 overall GPA
- Completion of specific undergraduate coursework
- Successfully meeting Mason's requirements for undergraduate degree conferral (graduation) and completing the application for graduation.

Accelerated Pathway Requirements

To maintain the integrity and quality of both the undergraduate and graduate degree programs, undergraduate students interested in taking graduate courses must choose from the following which can be taken as Advanced Standing or Reserve Graduate credit (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#text>) (to be determined by the student and their advisor):

Code	Title	Credits
EDSE 501	Introduction to Special Education	3
EDSE 517	Computer Applications for Special Populations	3
Select one from the following:		3
EDSE 503	Language Development and Reading	
EDSE 557	Foundations of Language and Literacy for Individuals with Severe Disabilities	
EDSE 625	Applied Behavior Analysis: Verbal Behavior	

EDSE approved electives up to 9 credits (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/edse/>)

For more detailed information on coursework and timeline requirements, see AP6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degree (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-7>) policies.

Bachelor's Degree (any)/Special Education, Accelerated MEd (Early Childhood Special Education (Licensure) Concentration)

Overview

Highly-qualified undergraduates may be admitted to the bachelor's/accelerated master's program and obtain a BA or BS in any degree area and an MEd in Special Education (Early Childhood Special Education (Licensure) concentration) (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/education-human-development/school-education/special-education->

[med/#text](#)) in an accelerated time-frame after satisfactory completion of a minimum of 144 credits.

See AP6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degree (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/education-human-development/school-education/>) for policies related to this program.

Students in an accelerated degree program must fulfill all university requirements for the master's degree. For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP6 Graduate Policies (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#text>).

BAM Pathway Admission Requirements

Applicants to all graduate programs at George Mason University must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in Graduate Admissions Policies (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-policies/>) and Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degree (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-7>) policies. For information specific to this accelerated master's program, see Application Requirements and Deadlines (<https://cehd.gmu.edu/bachelors-accelerated-masters-program/>).

Students will be considered for admission into the BAM Pathway after completion of a minimum of 60 credits, and additional unit-specific criteria (see Application Requirements and Deadlines) (<https://cehd.gmu.edu/bachelors-accelerated-masters-program/>).

Students who are accepted into the BAM Pathway will be allowed to register for graduate level courses after successful completion of a minimum of 75 undergraduate credits and course-specific pre-requisites.

Accelerated Master's Admission Requirements

Students already admitted in the BAM Pathway will be admitted to the MEd program, if they have met the following criteria, as verified on the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition form:

- 3.0 overall GPA
- Completion of specific undergraduate coursework
- Successfully meeting Mason's requirements for undergraduate degree conferral (graduation) and completing the application for graduation.

Accelerated Pathway Requirements

To maintain the integrity and quality of both the undergraduate and graduate degree programs, undergraduate students interested in taking graduate courses must choose from the following (to be determined by the student and their advisor):

Advanced Standing Courses (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#text>) (up to 12 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
ECED 501	Developmental Pathways of Diverse Learners, Birth-Adolescence	3
ECED 502	Foundations of Language and Literacy for Diverse Prekindergarten and Kindergarten Learners	3
ECED 503	Inclusive Curriculum for Young Learners: Planning Instruction and Guidance	3
ECED 504	Engaging Families of Diverse Young Learners	3

ECED 505	Introduction to Early Childhood Special Education	3
ECED 506	Medical and Developmental Aspects of Disabilities of Diverse Young Learners	3
ECED 522	Developing Language, Literacy, and Communication of Diverse Infants and Toddlers	3
ECED 523	Early Intervention for Infants Toddlers with Disabilities: Collaborative Consultative Approaches	3

ECED approved elective (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/eced/>)

Reserve Graduate Credit Courses (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#text>) (**up to 6 credits**)

Code	Title	Credits
ECED 502	Foundations of Language and Literacy for Diverse Prekindergarten and Kindergarten Learners	3
ECED 505	Introduction to Early Childhood Special Education	3
ECED 506	Medical and Developmental Aspects of Disabilities of Diverse Young Learners	3
ECED 511	Assessment of Diverse Young Learners	3
ECED 522	Developing Language, Literacy, and Communication of Diverse Infants and Toddlers	3
ECED 523	Early Intervention for Infants Toddlers with Disabilities: Collaborative Consultative Approaches	3

ECED approved elective (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/eced/>)

For more detailed information on coursework and timeline requirements, see AP.6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degree (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-7>) policies.

Bachelor's Degree (any)/Special Education, Accelerated MEd (Early Childhood Special Education (Non-Licensure) Concentration)

Overview

Highly-qualified undergraduates may be admitted to the bachelor's/accelerated master's program and obtain a BA or BS in any degree area and an MEd in Special Education (Early Childhood Special Education (Non-Licensure) concentration) (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/education-human-development/school-education/special-education-med/#text>) in an accelerated time-frame after satisfactory completion of a minimum of 138 credits.

See AP.6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degree (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/education-human-development/school-education/>) for policies related to this program.

Students in an accelerated degree program must fulfill all university requirements for the master's degree. For policies governing all graduate

degrees, see AP.6 Graduate Policies (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#text>).

BAM Pathway Admission Requirements

Applicants to all graduate programs at George Mason University must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in Graduate Admissions Policies (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-policies/>) and Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degree (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-7>) policies. For information specific to this accelerated master's program, see Application Requirements and Deadlines (<https://cehd.gmu.edu/bachelors-accelerated-masters-program/>).

Students will be considered for admission into the BAM Pathway after completion of a minimum of 60 credits, and additional unit-specific criteria (see Application Requirements and Deadlines) (<https://cehd.gmu.edu/bachelors-accelerated-masters-program/>).

Students who are accepted into the BAM Pathway will be allowed to register for graduate level courses after successful completion of a minimum of 75 undergraduate credits and course-specific pre-requisites.

Accelerated Master's Admission Requirements

Students already admitted in the BAM Pathway will be admitted to the MEd program, if they have met the following criteria, as verified on the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition form:

- 3.0 overall GPA
- Completion of specific undergraduate coursework
- Successfully meeting Mason's requirements for undergraduate degree conferral (graduation) and completing the application for graduation.

Accelerated Pathway Requirements

To maintain the integrity and quality of both the undergraduate and graduate degree programs, undergraduate students interested in taking graduate courses must choose from the following (to be determined by the student and their advisor):

Advanced Standing Courses (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#text>) (**up to 12 credits**)

Code	Title	Credits
ECED 501	Developmental Pathways of Diverse Learners, Birth-Adolescence	3
ECED 502	Foundations of Language and Literacy for Diverse Prekindergarten and Kindergarten Learners	3
ECED 503	Inclusive Curriculum for Young Learners: Planning Instruction and Guidance	3
ECED 504	Engaging Families of Diverse Young Learners	3
ECED 505	Introduction to Early Childhood Special Education	3
ECED 506	Medical and Developmental Aspects of Disabilities of Diverse Young Learners	3
ECED 522	Developing Language, Literacy, and Communication of Diverse Infants and Toddlers	3

ECED 523	Early Intervention for Infants Toddlers with Disabilities: Collaborative Consultative Approaches	3
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ECED approved elective (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/eced/>)

Reserve Graduate Credit Courses (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#text>) (up to 6 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
ECED 502	Foundations of Language and Literacy for Diverse Prekindergarten and Kindergarten Learners	3
ECED 505	Introduction to Early Childhood Special Education	3
ECED 506	Medical and Developmental Aspects of Disabilities of Diverse Young Learners	3
ECED 511	Assessment of Diverse Young Learners	3
ECED 522	Developing Language, Literacy, and Communication of Diverse Infants and Toddlers	3
ECED 523	Early Intervention for Infants Toddlers with Disabilities: Collaborative Consultative Approaches	3
ECED 597	Special Topics in Early Childhood Education	1-3

ECED approved elective (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/eced/>)

For more detailed information on coursework and timeline requirements, see AP6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degree (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-7>) policies.