

SPECIAL EDUCATION, MEd

Banner Code: E1-MED-EDSE

Academic Advising

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 (<https://education.gmu.edu/special-education/med>)

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 adding a concentration or by completing a certificate program in conjunction with the MEd.

Admissions & Policies

Policies

In addition to coursework, students in Virginia Department of Education licensure pathways must complete additional licensure requirements to fulfill graduation requirements. See Degree Requirements.

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 or BEHV 798	Special Education Research Thesis I	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, Collaboration, and IEP Development	
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 BEHV courses (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/behv/>)

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

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

Total Credits **30**

MEd with concentration in Behavior Analysis (BHVA)

The 36-credit MEd in Special Education with concentration in Behavior Analysis prepares students to sit for the Behavior Analyst Certification Board™ exam. Passing the exam is a prerequisite for licensure in Behavior Analysis in all states that require a license to practice. Students will be prepared to work with a variety of populations such as children with intellectual and developmental disabilities, adults with health and wellness behavior change goals, and people with substance use disorders, across a variety of settings such as homes, hospitals, corporations, and clinics. Students will also learn to conduct behavior analytic research.

The concentration in Behavior Analysis is not a teacher preparation program and does not lead to teacher licensure.

Courses from ABAI-accredited programs at other institutions will be considered for transfer of credit on a case by case basis. Courses from ABAI Verified Course Sequences (VCS) will not be accepted.

Core Coursework

Code	Title	Credits
EDSE 501	Introduction to Special Education	3
EDSE 517	Computer Applications for Special Populations	3
BEHV 798	Thesis I	3

Language Development and Reading

EDSE 625 Applied Behavior Analysis: Verbal Behavior **3**

Consultation and Collaboration

EDSE 664 Ethical and Professional Conduct for Behavior Analysis **3**

Total Credits **15**

Concentration Coursework

Code	Title	Credits
BEHV 602	Principles of Behavior Analysis	3
BEHV 603	Conceptual Analysis of Behavior	3
BEHV 604	Research Methods for Behavior Analysis	3
BEHV 605	Experimental Analysis of Behavior	3
BEHV 606	Assessment of Behavior	3
BEHV 607	Organizational Behavior Management	3
BEHV 799	Thesis II	3
Total Credits		21

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. 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
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Consultation and Collaboration

EDSE 663	Collaborative Teamwork to Support Students with Significant Disabilities	3
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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

Licensure Requirements

Students enrolled in the licensure concentration (KACL) must successfully complete the following licensure requirements to complete the program. All requirements must be satisfied prior to graduation:

- Emergency First Aid, Hands-on CPR and AED certification or training

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.

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. 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
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Consultation and Collaboration

EDSE 662	Consultation, Collaboration, and IEP Development	3
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Total Credits **15**

Concentration Coursework

Code	Title	Credits
EDSE 502	Classroom Management and Individualized Behavior Supports	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

Licensure Requirements

Students enrolled in the licensure concentration (KGCL) must successfully complete the following licensure requirements to complete the program. All requirements must be satisfied prior to graduation.

- Emergency First Aid, Hands-on CPR and AED certification or training.
- Praxis Teaching Reading Elementary (5205) (<https://education.gmu.edu/teacher-preparation/test-requirements>)

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.

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. 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

Licensure Requirements

Students enrolled in the licensure concentration (PBVL) must successfully complete the following licensure requirements to complete the program. All requirements must be satisfied prior to graduation:

- Emergency First Aid, Hands-on CPR and AED certification or training
- Praxis Teaching Reading Elementary (5205) (<https://education.gmu.edu/teacher-preparation/test-requirements>)
- Praxis Braille Proficiency (0633) (<https://education.gmu.edu/teacher-preparation/test-requirements>)

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.

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

Undergraduate students already admitted to the BAM Pathway will be admitted to the intended master's program, if they have met the following criteria:

- Submission of BAM Transition Form by stated deadline
- Sufficient minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA for conferred undergraduate degree (which does not include any earned reserve graduate credits)
- Sufficient minimum major area GPA (if applicable for undergraduate degree conferral)
- Completion of approved advanced standing courses and any reserve graduate courses that have met the minimum grade requirement of B-
- Successful completion of required minimum of 120 credits needed for undergraduate degree conferral (after exclusion of any satisfactory reserve graduate credits earned)
- 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/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-7>) (to be determined by the student and their advisor):

Advanced Standing Courses (3 to 12 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
EDSE 501	Introduction to Special Education	3
EDSE 517	Computer Applications for Special Populations	3
Select one from the following:		3
BEHV 602	Principles of Behavior Analysis	
EDSE 511	Characteristics of Students with Blindness and Visual Impairments	
EDSE 540	Characteristics of Students with Disabilities who Access the General Curriculum	
EDSE 547	Characteristics of Students with Severe Disabilities	
EDSE 634	Characteristics of Individuals with Autism	
Select one from the following:		3
EDSE 512	Braille Code	
EDSE 620	Supporting the Behavior and Sensory Needs of Individuals with Autism	
EDSE 643	Instructional Strategies for Math	
EDSE 661	Curriculum and Methods: Severe Disabilities	
EDSE 664	Ethical and Professional Conduct for Behavior Analysis	

Reserve Graduate Credit Courses (up to 6 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
Select one from the following:		
BEHV 603	Conceptual Analysis of Behavior	
EDSE 590	Special Education Research	
Select one from the following:		
BEHV 604	Research Methods for Behavior Analysis	
EDSE 637	Autism Across the Lifespan: Collaboration with Critical Partners	
EDSE 662	Consultation, Collaboration, and IEP Development	
EDSE 663	Collaborative Teamwork to Support Students with Significant Disabilities	

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.