Western Michigan University’s Special Education (M.A. and Ed.D.) programs prepare special educators for K-12 classrooms, K-12 Special Education Administration, and Higher Education.

Concentrations available in:
- Initial and Advanced AI, EI, and LD Special Education Endorsements (M.A.)
- K-12 Special Education Administration (M.A.)
- Higher Education Teacher Preparation (Ed.D.)

These programs prepare graduate students to select and implement evidence-based practices to provide high-quality education to students with disabilities; to evaluate these instructional practices, and to collaborate with other educators, families, and service providers to solve problems in the field of special education; and to produce new information related to the field.

Students in our programs develop skills in curriculum development, assessment and data-based decision making, collaboration and consultation, differentiated instruction, transition planning, universal design for learning, classroom management, behavioral intervention, and leadership though a curriculum aligned with professional standards established by the Council for Exceptional Children.

Our Ed.D. program prepares candidates wanting to pursue careers in teacher preparation in colleges or universities or leadership positions within preK-12 settings.

Classes are offered at times that are convenient for working professionals, including evenings, weekends, on-line, and alternative summer scheduling.

Please note that significant program enhancements are underway, with a planned implementation date of Fall 2014. Contact us for more details.
Western Michigan University
One of the top-100 public universities in the United States, Western Michigan University offers many nationally known graduate programs, including 30 doctoral and 70 master’s degrees. More than 20 percent of its 24,000 students are enrolled in graduate course work.

Kalamazoo
With a population of more than 325,000, Kalamazoo is the sixth largest metropolitan area in Michigan and among the 150 largest in the country. Kalamazoo is rated one of the 25 best cities in the country for young college graduates, and is located midway between Chicago and Detroit.

Special Education (M.A., Ed.D.)

Teaching, Research, and Program Focus Areas
WMU’s special education faculty have a strong record of grant-funded research and scholarly productivity. Further, they are well-connected with practitioners in the field and are in the field themselves supervising teacher candidates, consulting, and providing professional development.

Our goal is to produce a diverse academic and professional community of engaged and intellectually active scholars and scholar-practioners.

Admissions
Students seeking admission to the M.A. program must complete their application by the deadline preceding the semester they seek entry. Applications are evaluated on the basis of: 1) undergraduate grade point average, minimum GPA of 3.0 (a graduate grade point average may be considered if at least 9 hours of recent and relevant course work have been completed), 2) experience in special education or a related field, 4) congruence of professional goals and requested program option, 5) writing skills, and 6) professional references.

Students seeking admission to the doctoral program must have acquired a minimum of two years of successful professional experience in serving persons with disabilities. Admission is contingent upon a satisfactory score on the GRE and successful completion of a personal interview with faculty. Applications are accepted on an on-going basis. For additional application information and materials visit the program website: wmich.edu/specialed/

Graduate Assistantships/Associateships
A small number of graduate associate and doctoral associate positions are available. Please contact the Department for more information.

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(269) 387-5935

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