

WMU Expedited Program in Special Education Frequently Asked Questions

How does it fit in 18 months?

- In order to complete the program in 18 months, students will enroll in classes during the fall and spring semesters, as well as the two summer sessions that are held each year. Regular semesters are 15 weeks, and summer semesters are about 8 weeks each, running from May to August.
- Avg. # of Courses/Semester: Students will generally take 6 credits per semester, however that will include field experience in a school district and is subject to change based on transferable credits.
- Classes will be offered online, both asynchronously and synchronously. A schedule is yet to be established; however, we will work to accommodate working students for the synchronous courses.

What's going to transfer?

- This will be determined on a case-by-case basis. As a general rule, classes must have been taken within the past 5 years in order to qualify. If you have specific questions and/or would like to look at your transcript with someone, please contact Dr. Sarah Summy via email at sarah.summy@wmich.edu

Can you do this if you already have a teaching or early childhood certification?

- YES! This program is open to anyone with a bachelor's degree, including those with education degrees and certifications.

Field Experience- where?

- We will work with approved school districts to place our students in both elementary and secondary schools so that they can meet certification requirements. If you are already employed by a school district, we will work with your district to develop a plan there. We want to help educators stay in classrooms as they further their education.

Is there a thesis requirement?

- There is no thesis requirement, however students will develop and complete a study in a school as their capstone project.

Can I do this next year if I am not ready yet?

- Yes, this program will be offered again in Fall of 2023. Pending grant support, this program may be offered after that as well.

Grant slots—how many, how to qualify?

- The Urban Teacher Residency Fund can provide stipends of up to \$26,000 to 10 students annually who work in qualifying school districts, such as Kalamazoo Public Schools and Benton Harbor Schools. To learn more about the Urban Teacher Residency Program, [please click here](#).
- Will the stipend from the Urban Education Grant count as income? (FAFSA/Household income question)

How do I apply?

- When you are ready, [click here to go to the portal](#) for the graduate application. From there, please select the application for “Special Education: Clinical Teaching – MA”. From there, complete your application as per the instructions. Faculty are notified as soon as your application is submitted.