

SPECIAL EDUCATION

 wmich.edu/specialed/academics

Bachelor of Science



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The special education program is an innovative and demanding program preparing special education teachers to meet the unique needs of a diverse range of preK-12 students with learning disabilities or early childhood developmental delay. Candidates are prepared to implement evidence-based instructional practices and behavioral strategies promoting access to and success in the general education curriculum through assessment, intentional instruction, and evaluation. WMU's special education program also includes preparation leading to certification in elementary education preK-3.

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The special education program is very close-knit and takes each of their students into account personally and professionally.

■ Joanne DiGiuseppe, alumna



The WMU teacher education unit is accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP).



Michigan school principals ranked **99%** of new teachers prepared at WMU as “effective” or “highly effective” in 2020-21.

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     | @WMUCEHD



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
College of Education
and Human Development

WHY WMU?

- Students participate in a field-based experience every semester mentored by a highly skilled special education teacher.
- The special education program faculty have experience utilizing advanced technology for preparing teachers, as well as other innovative instructional techniques.
- Candidates will have the opportunity to participate in an accelerated graduate degree with an endorsement in emotional impairments (EI) as an undergraduate. The additional hours for the EI endorsement will be billed at the undergraduate rate.
- Candidates will also have the opportunity to seek a Masters in Special Education with an additional endorsement in autism.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Students begin their studies in the pre-professional program. Special admission is required into the professional, upper-level courses (typically after students' sophomore year).

- Completion of 56 credits
- Completion of ED 2500: Human Development, or an approved course, with a grade of "CB" or better
- Achievement of a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher
- Completion of background check
- Submission of a formal application to the CEHD Office of Admissions and Advising

CAREER POSSIBILITIES

- Special education teacher preK-12
- Elementary education teacher preK-3: all subjects

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

- Future Teachers of Color
- Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education
- Student Council for Exceptional Children
- Western Student Education Association



100% of WMU special education students are admitted as a cohort, forming close bonds with professors and peers. Our cohort model supports a strong sense of community.



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