



William & Mary
School of Education

M.A.ED. – SPECIAL EDUCATION

Step into the role of special educator.

Do you dream of making a difference in the lives of young people? Make it a reality with an M.A.Ed. in Curriculum & Instruction with a concentration in Special Education from William & Mary. Our program focuses on integrating theory, research and practice so that in one year, you'll be ready to step into the classroom with the knowledge, skills and strategies to confidently teach students with varying disabilities (e.g., learning disabilities, emotional disabilities, intellectual disabilities, attention deficit hyperactivity disorders, autism spectrum disorders).

FAST FACTS

Designed for: People who wish to teach students with disabilities in inclusive settings

Prerequisite: Bachelor's degree in arts and sciences, elementary education, or secondary education; foundational coursework

Course requirements: Full-time or part-time program consisting of 37 credits including field experiences

Entry term: Spring for full-time study; spring or fall for part-time study

Fieldwork: Practicum followed by a five-week, full-time student teaching experience in fall and spring

FIELD EXPERIENCES

In addition to study of curriculum and instruction courses in special education, you will spend time in real classrooms throughout the program.

Fall and spring student teaching experiences: You'll be placed in local schools with cooperating teacher mentors to complete an observation and interaction practicum followed by five weeks of full-time student teaching in both fall and spring semesters. One semester you'll be placed in an elementary setting; the next semester in a secondary school. Coursework is linked to the field experiences, with faculty supporting students as they become immersed in the classroom. The full-time teaching internships provide an intensive and critical component of your preparation as a special educator.

COURSE TOPICS INCLUDE:

SEMESTER ONE (Summer – 3 credits)

- Characteristics and accommodations for students with disabilities

SEMESTER TWO (Fall – 18 credits)

- Curriculum and instructional strategies
- Reading and math methods
- Classroom organization and management
- Characteristics of Autism
- Classroom observation and student teaching

SEMESTER THREE (Spring – 16 credits)

- Assessment of learning
- Collaboration for teaching and learning
- Individualized education program transition planning and services
- Classroom observation and student teaching

LEARN MORE

Questions about the Special Education program? Contact the program director:

Debbie Ramer

dlrame@wm.edu | 757-221-2329

Questions about applying for admission? Contact an admissions representative:

graded@wm.edu | 757-221-2317



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CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

The need for highly-educated, well-prepared teachers has never been greater. There is a steadily rising demand for teachers, especially in high-need areas such as STEM, ESL and special education. Graduates of our teacher preparation programs are highly sought by school districts throughout Virginia and across the nation.

William & Mary is preparing tomorrow's educational leaders by providing a comprehensive experience for students. Our programs combine investigation of educational ideas and practices with supervised laboratory, clinical, and practicum experiences. They are designed to develop in students the specific knowledge, skills, and attitudes that are essential to effective teaching.

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION PROGRAM OFFERINGS

GRADUATE LEVEL:

- M.A.Ed. – Elementary Education
- M.A.Ed. – Secondary Education: English, Mathematics, Science or Social Studies
- M.A.Ed. – ESL/Bilingual Education
- Dual Endorsement – ESL/Bilingual Education
- M.A.Ed. – Special Education
- Certificates – Autism Spectrum Disorder, ESL/Bilingual Education, Gifted Education, Reading Specialist

UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL:

- B.A.Ed. – Elementary Education (optional concentrations in ESL/Bilingual and Special Education)
- Education as a second major (Secondary Education)
- 5 Year B.A. to M.A.Ed. (Elementary, Secondary, ESL, Special)
- Minors – Educational Studies and ESL/Bilingual Education

APPLY NOW

Applications are due by **January 15** for summer admission. The Special Education program also admits **part-time students in the spring semester; apply by October 1.**

WHY W&M?

Looking to pursue a graduate degree in education? Here are a few reasons to consider W&M:

A welcoming and supportive community

With almost 900 students, the School of Education is big enough to offer a diverse range of programs, people and experiences, but small enough to feel like family. You'll make close connections with your fellow students and your professors — relationships that will stay with you for life and help you forge your own career path.

A focus on leadership in education

Our programs produce leaders — people with the passion, skills and tenacity to effect change in education. Our alumni achieve early recognition, becoming school leaders and innovators.

A campus in the heart of historic Williamsburg

Study at a campus that offers more than 300 years of history and countless beloved traditions.

Professors who are leaders in the field

Our faculty are recognized and respected around the world for instruction and research. They're passionate about their own research as well as the success of their students — they are, after all, teachers first and foremost.

Field experiences that will change your life

You won't be stuck in a lecture hall and you won't have to wait until after graduation to begin making a difference in the lives of students and communities. Opportunities abound to pursue meaningful, fulfilling experiences that allow students to both learn and contribute.

Programs for students at every career stage

Our graduate programs are designed to meet the needs of a diverse student population that includes full-time and part-time students, people re-entering the paid work force after raising a family, and recent recipients of bachelor's or master's degrees preparing for advanced positions in the field of education.