

SPECIAL EDUCATION WITH A 3+2 MASTER OF ARTS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

The 3+2 Special Education Program allows students to complete a Bachelor of Arts in Special Education and a Master of Arts in Special Education in five years. Students apply to the program by December of their year prior to their residency experience. To be accepted into the 3+2 Special Education Program, each student must:

- Provide letters of recommendation from at least one Education Department faculty member and one faculty member of a core content area department
- Have demonstrated content knowledge by passing the relevant Praxis exam(s) as defined by the Colorado Department of Education
- Be accepted into Western's Teacher Licensure Program
- Successfully complete EDUC 340 Application of Pedagogy and Practice or show proof of registration
- Be on track to complete all coursework required within the academic major

Upon completion of these requirements, students will be designated as "MA in Special Education candidates with provisional acceptance." Upon completion of the final undergraduate credits for the Western BA, students will be designated as "Master of Arts in Special Education degree-seeking students." Students who have completed all other requirements of the 3+2 Special Education Degree Program and all Western undergraduate requirements yet choose to leave the Master of Arts in Special Education program before year five, will still have completed the BA in Special Education, and are eligible to apply for initial teacher license.

Students seeking Special Education Generalist (Ages 5-21) Licensure in the 3+2 Special Education Program must complete the interdisciplinary requirements of the Special Education Standard Major, all other University requirements, and the Special Education Generalist (Ages 5-21) requirements set forth by the Colorado Department of Education.

Code	Title	Credits
Elementary Education/Special Education Core Content:		
BIOL 130	Environmental Biology (GT-SC2)	3
BIOL 135	Environmental Biology Laboratory (GT-SC1)	1
GEOL 101	Physical Geology (GT-SC2)	3
GEOL 105	Physical Geology Laboratory (GT-SC1)	1
MATH 140 or MATH 113	College Algebra (GT-MA1) Statistical Thinking (GT-MA1)	3
MATH 221	Foundations of Mathematics for Teaching I	3
MATH 222	Foundations of Mathematics for Teaching II	3
MATH 323	Foundations of Mathematics for Teaching III	3
PHYS 140	Introductory Physics (with laboratory) (GT-SC1)	4
Two of the following:		6
ENG 150	Introduction to Literature (GT-AH2)	
ENG 161	Introduction to Creative Writing (GT-AH1)	
ENG 220	Grammar and the English Language	
ENG 250	Critical Approaches to Literature (GT-AH2)	
ENG 337	Women Writers	

Four of the following (courses must include at least 3 disciplines): 12

ECON 201	Macroeconomics (GT-SS1)
ECON 202	Microeconomics
ECON 215	Environmental Economics
GEOG 120	Introduction to Human Geography (GT-SS2)
GEOG 250	Geography of North America (GT-SS2)
GEOG 351	Geography of Latin America and the Caribbean
HIST 100	Topics in World History (GT-HI1)
HIST 126	American History through Reconstruction (GT-HI1)
HIST 127	U.S. History from the Civil War (GT-HI1)
HIST 128	Introduction to Environmental History (GT-HI1)
HIST 250	History of the Middle East (GT-HI1)
HIST 251	History of Europe (GT-HI1)
HIST 254	History of Africa (GT-HI1)
HIST 257	East Asia, 1500 - present
HIST 260	History of Latin America (GT-HI1)
HIST 327	Colorado History
HIST 349	History of the Hispanic Southwest
POLS 117	Democracy, Capitalism, and Their Critics (GT-HI1)
POLS 180	Power in America (GT-SS1)
POLS 250	Politics of the Environment

Total Credits 42

The residency for Special Education Licensure must be completed in a K-12 setting, working with students who are receiving special education services. Students are expected to work cooperatively a minimum of 24 hours per week with qualified mentor special education teachers. During this year-long clinical residency, students are applying and extending the pedagogical knowledge that they are learning in their Education courses. The Special Education licensure coursework and the post-licensure coursework are taught online.

Specialization (18 credits)

The Special Education Major requires students take at least 18 credits in a specialized area of interest. The student may choose to minor in any minor offered at Western Colorado University. Although it is not required, it is highly recommended that all 3+2 Special Education Majors strongly consider a minor in Psychology or Child Development.

Required Education Coursework

The Special Education Licensure Program requires 42 credits of Education coursework and the Gateway course.

Pre-Residency Coursework (15 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
EDUC 000	Education Gateway Course	0
EDUC 102	Learning & Teaching (GT-SS3)	3
EDUC 202	Past, Present, and Future of Schooling in the US (GT-SS3)	3
EDUC 210	Science Teaching Methods	3
EDUC 326	Equity, Diversity, and Social Justice in Education	3
EDUC 340	Application of Pedagogy and Practice	3

Special Education licensure coursework to be taken in year 4 of the Master's in Special Education 3+2 (27 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
EDUC 412	Inclusive Assessment & Comprehensive Programming	3
EDUC 432	Inclusive Schools	3
EDUC 600	Foundations of Literacy Development	3
EDUC 601	Methods and Strategies of Effective Reading Instruction	3
EDUC 611	Strategies for Teaching Students with Exceptionalities	3
EDUC 614	Inclusivity with Collaboration	3
EDUC 615	Student Teaching for Students with Exceptionalities	3
EDUC 615	Student Teaching for Students with Exceptionalities	3
EDUC 630	Inclusivity in the Content Areas	3
Total Credits		27

All Special Education 3+2 students will be required to take 9 credits of 600 level education electives.

Elective Education coursework to be taken in year 5 of the MA 3+2 Special Education Program. Please see the Graduate Catalog for program overviews and requirements for completing Master's degrees and additional Colorado Teacher Endorsement areas.

Western Watershed General Education Requirements

Students must complete all Western Watershed General Education requirements to graduate.

Graduation Requirements

Undergraduate programs require a minimum of 120 semester credits for graduation. Of those 120 credits, 40 credits must be in upper-division courses (those marked 300 and above). Fifteen of these 40 upper-division credits must be earned in courses that are part of the standard or comprehensive major program being pursued.

Students are expected to review all graduation requirements, which can be found in the Western Undergraduate Catalog: Graduation Requirements (<https://catalog.western.edu/undergraduate/graduation-requirements/>).

Sample Plan

Degree Plans are for planning purposes. They reflect a suggested plan to complete the degree in a projected timeframe per program of study.

"Western Watershed Course(s)" refers to a course from the Tributaries area of the Western Watershed program. These courses should be chosen in consultation with the student's advisor.

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
Fall		
BIOL 130	Environmental Biology (GT-SC2)	3
BIOL 135	Environmental Biology Laboratory (GT-SC1)	1
EDUC 000	Education Gateway Course	0

EDUC 102	Learning & Teaching (GT-SS3)	3
ENG 102	Writing and Rhetoric I (GT-CO1) (Western Watershed Fundamental Skills - Writing I)	3
MATH 140 or MATH 113	College Algebra (GT-MA1) (Western Watershed Fundamental Skills - Mathematics) or Statistical Thinking (GT-MA1)	3
WWGE 101/102/103/104	Headwaters (select one)	2
Credits		15
Spring		
ENG 103	Writing and Rhetoric II (GT-CO2) (Western Watershed Fundamental Skills - Writing II)	3
PHYS 140	Introductory Physics (with laboratory) (GT-SC1)	4
Western Watershed	Western Watershed course	9
Credits		16
Year Two		
Fall		
EDUC 202	Past, Present, and Future of Schooling in the US (GT-SS3)	3
MATH 221	Foundations of Mathematics for Teaching I	3
Elective	Specialization Elective	3
Elective	ENG Elective	3
Western Watershed	Western Watershed course	3
Credits		15
Spring		
EDUC 210	Science Teaching Methods	3
GEOL 101	Physical Geology (GT-SC2)	3
GEOL 105	Physical Geology Laboratory (GT-SC1)	1
MATH 222	Foundations of Mathematics for Teaching II	3
Elective	Specialization Elective	3
Western Watershed	Western Watershed course	3
Credits		16
Year Three		
Fall		
MATH 323	Foundations of Mathematics for Teaching III	3
Elective	Specialization Elective	6
Western Watershed	Western Watershed course	6
Credits		15
Spring		
EDUC 326	Equity, Diversity, and Social Justice in Education	3
EDUC 340	Application of Pedagogy and Practice	3
Elective	ENG Elective	3
Elective	Specialization Elective	3
Elective	Specialization Elective (upper division)	3
WWGE 301/302/303/304	Delta (select one)	1
Credits		16
Year Four		
Fall		
EDUC 432	Inclusive Schools	3
EDUC 611	Strategies for Teaching Students with Exceptionalities	3
EDUC 614	Inclusivity with Collaboration	3
EDUC 615	Student Teaching for Students with Exceptionalities	3
EDUC 630	Inclusivity in the Content Areas	3
Credits		15
Spring		
EDUC 412	Inclusive Assessment & Comprehensive Programming	3
EDUC 600	Foundations of Literacy Development	3
EDUC 601	Methods and Strategies of Effective Reading Instruction	3
EDUC 615	Student Teaching for Students with Exceptionalities	3
Credits		12
Total Credits		120

Western is committed to doing our part to provide each student a clear path to graduation. This four#year degree plan is a sample map for fulfilling requirements in the major and General Education. The pathway that you take to your degree may differ somewhat from this