SPECIAL EDUCATION

Masters of Education in Special Education

Eastern Washington University is dedicated to extending education beyond undergraduate studies. This extension is critical given that the field of special education is rapidly changing. With the focus on school reform (e.g., “No Child Left Behind”) and the emphasis on including students with disabilities in the general education learning environment, there is increasing importance on the techniques and skills used in special education (e.g., scientifically-based instructional programs and research validated behavior management approaches). Therefore, the Department of Counseling, Educational and Developmental Psychology has developed a one-year accelerated day program to meet the needs of continuing or new special education teachers.

The graduate program focuses on serving students with high-incidence disabilities (e.g., behavior disorders, learning disabilities, developmental and intellectual disabilities); however, accommodations can be made if the area of interest is serving preschool-age students or those with low incidence disabilities (e.g., more involved developmental and intellectual disabilities including autism).

Career Opportunities

The program leads to a primary endorsement in special education (pre K-12) and meets or exceeds Washington State requirements. Graduates from the program obtain jobs across the state in a variety of learning environments such as self-contained or resource rooms in elementary, middle or high school settings. Graduates of this program are highly competitive when seeking positions across the state.

Knowledge and Skills

The program is built off of and is highly influenced by a behavior analytic perspective. Thus, students will gain knowledge in applied behavior analysis. Additionally, scientifically-validated explicit instructional approaches are emphasized throughout the program.

Students will gain knowledge in assessment practices, effective behavior management techniques, Direct Instruction and other research-validated curricula, explicit practices, developing and implementing individualized educational programs and collaborative/consultative approaches.

Curriculum

The program includes a sequence of classes, with each quarter of classes building off of knowledge and skills gained from the previous quarter. The focus is on the application of skills learned in program courses within field-based sites. Students must complete a minimum of 66-quarter hours of course work, along with successful completion of an oral examination which reviews the research project and content areas that are required.

Special Features

The program is organized around a cohort field-based model that is one calendar year in length. The field experience within the program is designed to increase gradually throughout the year-long special education program. Two practica (fall and winter quarters) and one full-time internship (spring quarter) are required. Graduate students log their experiences and aid in the delivery of effective instruction throughout their practica and internship.

Throughout course work and field experiences,
graduate students will be challenged to provide services to students of varying of ages and skills. Field experiences help prepare educators for the expanding roles and responsibilities encountered by teachers in the special education field.

**Preparation for Graduate Program**

Students entering the program should have undergraduate preparation in education, psychology or a closely-related area. Course work requirements assume appropriate undergraduate preparation. Prospective students must also take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). It is also expected that prospective students have demonstrated computer literacy and speech skills (see catalog for details). Finally, for those who have not completed a teacher education program, a passing score on the Washington Educator Skills Test-Basic (WEST-B) must be achieved before entrance into the program.

Candidates will need to request a supplemental application packet from the CEDP Department, to be submitted along with the general application. Candidates can apply online or by mail. Applications can be found at: [http:www.ewu.edu/grad](http:www.ewu.edu/grad)

Applications should be sent to:

Graduate Studies Office
206 Showalter Hall
EWU Cheney, WA 99004

Prospective students of EWU can apply online via [http://www.ewu.edu/admissions](http://www.ewu.edu/admissions) or contact the Office of Admissions at 509.359.2397 to request an application.

**Certification Requirements**

Students who plan to work in public schools must be licensed or certified in the state in which they teach. A bachelor’s degree along with minimum performance on the written state certification teacher examinations (WEST-E for Washington State) is required. Private and parochial schools vary in their requirements for teaching certification. Each state is different so it is important to check state requirements before making any educational decisions.

**For More Information Contact:**
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**The University**

Eastern Washington University is a student-centered, regionally based, comprehensive university. This vision informs and inspires EWU’s future. Its campus is located in Cheney within the Spokane metropolitan area, with additional learning centers in the region and elsewhere in Washington State.

**Note:**
Information in this guide is subject to change without notice. To learn more about the official program of study, please check the catalog online at: [http://www.ewu.edu/x15588.xml](http://www.ewu.edu/x15588.xml)