

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM**

**Masters in Special Education program and
Graduate Certificate program in Teaching Students with Visual Impairments**

Due to overlaps in requirements of the two programs, students are able to complete the programs concurrently.

	<i>Masters, Special Education (30 credits)</i>	<i>Visual Impairments Licensure Certificate Program*</i>
Coursework applies to both MED and licensure program	EDSE 501 Intro to Spec Educ (3 cr.)	<i>EDSE 501 Intro to Spec Educ – pre-requisite to entry into the certificate program</i>
	Reading (3 cr.) EDSE 503 or 557 or 625 or 636	<i>EDSE 503 Lang Develop & Reading, passing RVE or current VA license</i>
	Collaboration (3 cr.) EDSE 663 or 637 or 662 or 664	EDSE 663 Collaborative Teamwork to Support Students with Significant Disabilities (3 cr.)
Licensure certificate courses can apply as electives in the MED program	15 cr. electives which can be any Special Education courses (EDSE or EDAT):	EDSE 511: Characteristics of Students with Visual Impairments (3 cr.)
		EDSE 512: Braille Code (3 cr.)
		EDSE 513: Medical and Educational Implications of Visual Impairments (3 cr.)
		EDSE 514: Orientation & Mobility for Students with Visual Impairments (2 cr.)
		EDSE 518: Curriculum and Assessment for Students with Visual Impairments (3 cr.)
		EDAT 522: Assistive Technology for Individuals with Sensory Impairments (3 cr.)
		EDSE 532: Positive Behavior Supports (3 cr.)
		EDSE 613: Teaching Methods for Students with Visual Impairments (3 cr.)
		EDSE 616: Braille Reading & Writing (3 cr.)*
		EDSE 785 Internship – (6 cr.)¹
Required for MED only	EDSE 517 Comp Applic Spec Pop (3 cr.)	
	EDSE 590 Spec Educ Research (3 cr.)	
Credits	Total credits for MED: 30	Total credits for licensure certificate: 35
	<i>Total credits if completing both MED and licensure certificate: 47</i>	

*Students must demonstrate that they have covered the content in all courses in the program; however, students who have completed coursework in a graduate or undergraduate program may waive comparable courses in their Mason licensure certificate program down to a minimum of 15 credits.

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Internship (<http://cehd.gmu.edu/teacher/intpract/>):

EDSE 785 Internship: Six credits of internship experience are required. Both elementary level and secondary level grade levels must be included in the experience. Internship options should be discussed with an advisor upon admission to the program.

Some students may be eligible to waive three credits of internship. For more information on the requirements for the waiver and the documentation that a student must submit in order to request the waiver see the checklist on the internship webpage.

Non-course Requirements (<http://cehd.gmu.edu/teacher/test/>): VCLA and CPR/AED/First Aid training are required prior to applying for internship. RVE and Braille Proficiency exams must be completed prior to graduation from the certificate and/or submitting for VDOE licensure.

- VCLA (<http://www.va.nesinc.com/>) – score of 470+
- CPR/AED/First Aid training (<https://cehd.gmu.edu/teacher/emergency-first-aid>)
- RVE: Elementary & Special Education (<http://www.ets.org>) – score of 157+
- Praxis Braille Proficiency: (<http://www.ets.org/praxis/va>) – score of 157+

Tuition Assistance and Grant Funding:

Visual Impairments Consortium (<https://education.gmu.edu/special-education/teacher-licensure/visual-impairments>): The Virginia Consortium for Teacher Preparation in Visual Impairments made up of five universities: George Mason University, James Madison University, Norfolk State University, Old Dominion University, and Radford University. Its primary goal is to prepare teachers to be highly skilled at working with students with visual impairment and blindness. Classes will be offered through distance education technology to establish real-time, interactive, multipoint instruction among the five universities. The consortium is supported by a grant from the Virginia Department of Education. Every semester a limited number of tuition stipends are awarded to qualified applicants.

Virginia Educator Discount (<https://cehd.gmu.edu/admissions/funding-sources-discounts/educator-tuition-discount>): A 15% discount off the university's approved tuition rate is available for qualifying in-state graduate students who are educators in Virginia.

George Mason University College of Education and Human Development is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). All licensure programs are approved by the Virginia Department of Education. George Mason University will verify completion of the requirements of a Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) state-approved preparation program at the graduate or undergraduate level. Such verification does not guarantee the issuance of Virginia Collegiate Professional, Postgraduate Professional, or Pupil Personnel license from the Commonwealth of Virginia. It is solely the student's responsibility to comply with all requirements for licensure by the Commonwealth. Under Virginia law a social security number is required for licensure.

***If you have questions or would like further information, please visit our website at
<https://education.gmu.edu/special-education/> or call 703-993-3670.***