

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

**Masters in Special Education degree program and  
 Special Education: General Curriculum (Add-on Endorsement) Graduate Certificate**

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

|   | <i>Masters in Special Education Program<br/>     (30 credits minimum)</i>  | <i>Special Education: General Curriculum<br/>     (Add-on Endorsement) Graduate Certificate<br/>     (16 credits)</i>   |
|---|--|---|
| Coursework applies to both MEd and add-on certificate           | <b>EDSE 501</b> Intro to Spec Educ (3 cr.)<br><br><b>Collaboration</b> (3 cr.) <b>EDSE 662</b> or <b>637</b> or <b>663</b> or <b>664</b>   | <b>EDSE 501</b> Intro to Spec Educ (3 cr.)<br><br><b>EDSE 662</b> Consultation & Collab (3 cr.)   |
| 10 credits of electives required for MEd and Add-on Certificate | 10 cr. specific add-on endorsement courses which can be applied to M.Ed. elective credits  | <u>For Elementary Level Add-on Endorsement</u><br><b>EDSE 627</b> Assessment (3 cr.)<br><b>OR</b><br><u>For Secondary Level Add-on Endorsement</u><br><b>EDSE 544</b> Adapt Instruct Methods/ Trans for Sec Learners<br><br><b>EDSE 641</b> Instructional Strategies for Reading & Writing (3 cr.)<br><br><b>EDSE 643</b> Instructional Strategies for Math (3 cr.)<br><br><b>EDCI 790</b> Internship (1 cr.) |
| Required for MEd only Credits                                   | <b>5-6 cr.</b> electives which can be any Special Education courses (EDSE or EDAT)<br><br><b>Reading</b> (3 cr.) <b>EDSE 503</b> or <b>557</b> or <b>625</b> or <b>636</b> (3 cr.)<br><br><b>EDSE 517</b> Comp Applic Spec Pop (3 cr.)<br><br><b>EDSE 590</b> Spec Educ Research (3 cr.) |   |
| Credits   | <b>Total credits for MED: 30</b><br><br><i>Total credits if completing both MED and certificate: 30-31</i>   | <b>Total credits for Add-on certificate: 16</b>   |

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**Add-on Endorsement** (<https://education.gmu.edu/special-education/teacher-licensure/general-curriculum>) for grade level specific teacher licensure endorsement

This certificate is designed for Virginia professionally licensed elementary and secondary education teachers. Coursework provides knowledge and skills for working with students with disabilities, and meets Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) requirements for teachers endorsed in elementary education (such as early/primary education preK-3 or elementary education preK-6) or in English, history and social sciences, mathematics, biology, chemistry, Earth science, or physics to add a grade level endorsement in special education: general curriculum.

**Suggested Additional Electives for M.Ed.:**

- [EDSE 502: Classroom Management and Applied Behavior Analysis](#) (3 credit hours)
- [EDSE 540: Characteristics of Students with Disabilities who Access the General Curriculum](#) (3 credit hours)
- [EDSE 544: Adapted Instructional Methods and Transition for Secondary Learners](#) (3 credit hours) if not taken as part of the add-on endorsement
- [EDSE 627: Assessment](#) (3 credit hours) if not taken as part of the add-on endorsement

**Tuition Assistance and Grant Funding:**

Tuition Discount for Virginia Educators (<https://cehd.gmu.edu/admissions/funding-sources-discounts/educator-tuition-discount>): For in-state graduate students who are contractual employees working in a Virginia Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12 school as a teacher, counselor, administrator, supervisor, librarian, coach, or support staff member a 15% discount off the university's approved tuition rate may be available.

Cohort program (<https://gse.gmu.edu/special-education-cohort/>): The Special Education program works collaboratively with a number of Northern Virginia school divisions to offer special education certificates and degree programs to school employees using a cohort model. This model provides convenience to the students and forms a better link between academia and school realities. Benefits of the cohort model include tuition discounts, classes located in the students' school divisions and course scheduling in alignment with school division calendars. Some coursework may be available in the cohort format with permission of the partner school division.

Graduate Research Assistantships (<https://cehd.gmu.edu/resources/student/ga-application>): Part time positions are available for students interested in providing research support to faculty.

\*\*\*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*