

Western Washington University

Woodring College of Education

Special Education Endorsement Program

General Information and FAQ's

Program Information

This 45-credit program is designed for practicing teachers who hold an endorsable Washington State teaching certificate and wish to obtain an additional endorsement in Special Education. The program provides coherent preparation in all areas of the Special Education curriculum as well as practicum and internship experience. Successful completion of the program results in Western's recommendation for the P-12 Special Education Endorsement.

Admission & Retention

Admissions information may be found at our website at <http://www.wce.wvu.edu/Depts/TEOP/SPEDEndorsement/>

Requirements for acceptance into the program are:

- Washington State teaching certificate
- Cumulative grade point average of 2.75 or higher for the last 45 quarter credits or 30 semester credits.
- Admissions interview

Retention in the program requires continuous demonstration of competence in standard oral and written English in all course work. Retention also requires maintenance of a 2.75 quarterly GPA for each quarter after admission to Woodring College. The state of Washington requires students to earn a "C" or better in all endorsement coursework and graded practica.

Priority Admission Deadlines

Bellingham

Fall Quarter Admission:	April 10
Winter Quarter Admission:	October 15
Spring Quarter Admission:	January 15
Summer Quarter Admission:	No Summer Admissions

Bremerton, Everett, and Seattle

Fall Quarter Admission *Only*: April 10

The Special Education Endorsement program situated on the main campus in Bellingham accepts students in fall, winter, and spring quarters due to the availability of both day time and evening classes each quarter. The program in Bremerton, Everett, and Seattle accepts new applications for the fall quarter only.

Non-admitted students

Individuals wishing to take classes prior to formal acceptance into the program may take up to two courses with permission from the Special Education Endorsement program director.

Prerequisites

SPED 360 and SPED 417X must be completed prior to taking other courses in the program. SPED 360 is offered in both face-to-face and on-line. SPED 417X is only offered as an on-line course.

Registration

Registration is quarterly. New students, and students who have stopped out of the program for one or more quarters, submit a paper registration form provided by the site program coordinator. Returning students taking classes from quarter to quarter may register on-line once given override permission by the site program coordinator. Courses and registration information will be disseminated via email before the beginning of each quarter. Contact Program Coordinator, Joanna Reynoso, for registration questions at 360-650-6292.

Suggested Course Sequence

Year 1	Year 2
Fall: SPED 360, 417X	Fall: SPED 485
Winter: SPED 467	Winter: SPED 472, 484
Spring: SPED 466, 483	Internship and practica through advisement
Summer: SPED 468, 471, 474	

Practica and Internship

Our practica consist of a series of specific assignments completed on the job for those currently in teaching positions. Students choose their assignments through advisement. Arrangements must begin at least one quarter prior to the start of the practicum to ensure instructor availability. An alternative summer practicum for special education majors and endorsement candidates is available in the Mt. Baker School District near Bellingham (*see below*).

General Practica Requirements:

1. Choose one assignment for each practicum credit
2. Identify a mentor special education teacher
3. Maintain contact with the university advisor
4. Provide evidence of student learning

Mt. Baker Practicum Alternative

Each summer, students may take part in a practicum offered in the Mt. Baker School District. Students have the opportunity to complete up to six practicum credits with a focus on literacy, mathematics, and spelling.

Internship

Students may elect to complete a 16 credit internship. The student and program coordinator will work with the Office of Field Experience (OFE) regarding internship placement. The OFE requires a three or four quarter notice to ensure internship placement.

24 Credit Waivers

In association with Washington State school districts, the Special Education Endorsement Program offers a 24 credit waiver as part of the 45 credit endorsement. This waiver allows those enrolled in an

endorsement program to teach in a special education setting. Two conditions must be met for the 24 credit waiver, i.e., candidates must show evidence of having successfully completed 24 core credits and possess a letter of intent to hire from a school district. Candidates have five years to complete the endorsement once granted a 24 credit waiver.

Washington Educator Skills Test

Washington State requires candidates take a subject knowledge test for each endorsement. This assessment is entitled the Washington Educator Skills Test - Endorsements (WEST-E). For more information go to <http://www.wce.wvu.edu/Resources/Endorsements/WEST-E.shtml>

FAQ's – Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I find information on-line for the program?

You will find our web page and additional information about our program at the following address:
<http://www.wce.wwu.edu/Depts/TEOP/SPEDEndorsement/>

Do I have to take the WEST-B Basic Skills Test before being accepted into your program?

No, the WEST-B is an entry exam for undergraduate and post bac. students applying to Washington State teacher certification programs. However, you will be required to take an exit exam called the WEST-E. You can find information about the WEST-E at the following address:

<http://www.wce.wwu.edu/Resources/Endorsements/WEST-E.shtml/>

Will I be interviewed prior to being accepted into the program?

Yes, you will be asked to meet with the site Director. Together you will make a decision with respect to program suitability and your professional needs.

Can I apply Special Education credits earned at another university to this program?

Credits completed at another Washington State university will be evaluated for students who have undertaken a special education major, minor, or endorsement. Not all such credits may be transferred. Prospective students seeking a credit evaluation are required to produce copies of transcripts, syllabi, and course descriptions of all courses completed. The credit evaluation process will be assisted if the prospective student can provide the names of contact people who can describe the program of, and course information from, the home institution(s) where the credits were earned.

How Do I meet Washington State requirements for Highly Qualified Teachers (HQT)?

The federal *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) of 2001 requires teachers to meet the definition of Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) to teach in a core academic subject. Teachers intending to teach in a special education setting meet the HQT requirement by completing the 45 credit endorsement, and passing the WEST-E test in Special Education. This is the link to the WWU Highly Qualified Teacher web page for further information: <http://www.wce.wwu.edu/Resources/Certification/Res/HQT.shtml>

Where can I find information on scholarship opportunities?

The Future Teachers Conditional Scholarship and Loan Repayment program is designed to encourage outstanding students and paraprofessionals to become teachers, and to encourage current teachers to obtain additional endorsements in teacher shortage subjects. In return for conditional scholarships or loan repayments, participants agree to teach in Washington K-12 public schools. See the following web site for additional information: <http://www.hecb.wa.gov/paying/waaidprgm/future.asp>

Can I get financial aid?

Students must apply to both the Special Education Endorsement program and Western Washington University in order to be eligible for financial aid. A student must attend the program for a least 6 credits per quarter in order to qualify for part-time benefits, or 12 credits for full time benefits. For financial aid questions, please visit the Financial Aid Office website at (<http://www.finaid.wwu.edu/finaid/>).

How do non-matriculated students register?

Students accepted into the Special Education Endorsement program on the main campus in Bellingham take classes through the Space Available program, as do non-matriculated students taking classes through the Everett site. To register as a non-matriculated student, you must first complete the Special Student Enrollment Form available from the Registrar's Office, Old Main 230. Submit the completed form to the Registrar's Office before the first day – but no later than the fifth day – of the quarter. Once your enrollment application has been processed, you will be eligible to register online

through Web4U beginning the *first day* of the quarter. Non-matriculated students are required to meet pre-requisites and course restrictions.

How do the students in Bremerton and Seattle register?

Students in Bremerton and Seattle register with a paper registration form obtained from the program coordinator.

How do the students in Everett register?

Matriculated students in Everett register for classes on Web4u. Non-matriculated students will follow the directions in the question above.

How do students register in Bellingham?

Matriculated students in Bellingham will need to get permission to register by the assistant in the special education department. Your program coordinator will arrange the classes you will need to take. The student will then register on Web4u. Non-matriculated students will follow the directions given in the question above.

Are on-line classes offered as part of the program?

SPED 360 and SPED 417X are offered on-line. SPED 360 is also offered as a face-to-face class in Bellingham, Bremerton, Everett, and Seattle.

Will I be taking courses as part of a cohort?

Students in Bremerton, Everett, and Seattle will take classes with existing Elementary Education cohorts, following the Special Education Endorsement class sequence. Students in Bellingham take classes with other Special Education students earning their initial teaching certificate. Bellingham does not employ a cohort model.

Can I complete all of the courses required at my home site?

Students may complete all courses in the endorsement if they follow the suggested course sequence (see above). The course sequence begins every fall quarter with SPED 360 and 417X.

Do I need to take courses in a particular sequence?

Yes, see the suggested course sequence above.

How much practicum experience is included in the endorsement?

Depending on the student's experience working in a special education setting, a student will be required to take from 3-6 practicum credits.

Is there an application fee?

Not at this time.

How long does earning a Special Education endorsement take?

This depends on the amount of coursework completed prior to admission and course availability at each site. Students may complete required coursework and practica in approximately six quarters following the suggested course sequence.

Are any credits for the endorsement transferable to a Master's Degree?

For an answer to this question and for more information contact Dr. Ken Howell, Department of Special Education, 360-650-3971.

Do any credits apply toward professional certification?

If a student's Professional Growth Plan indicates Special Education as the area of study, he/she can take up to seven credits of Special Education classes as approved electives. For more information contact Dr. Sheila Fox at 360-650-3332.

Where can I find more information on certification/endorsements for teachers?

Dana Edward, Director of Certification

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