

AMBITION NEVER RESTS™

Natalie M.
WGU Teachers College Graduate

Master of Arts in Teaching SPECIAL EDUCATION

Special ed teachers are in high demand.

There is a critical shortage of special education teachers throughout the country, and the demand for these specialized professionals is at an all-time high. WGU's Master of Arts in Teaching–Special Education (MATSPED) degree helps you meet the workforce development needs and requirements to earn your initial teaching licensure in special education (mild to moderate) in elementary and secondary schools.

Who is the MATSPED designed for?

Educators who are interested in meeting the needs of all learners in diverse classrooms and who have the following backgrounds are welcome to apply.

- Paraprofessionals, paraeducators, instructional aides, teachers aides, teaching assistants, classroom aides, and assistant teachers with an undergraduate degree seeking licensure.
- Educators, or professionals looking to change careers, who have an undergraduate or graduate degree and are seeking an initial licensure in special education.
- Educators with a current teaching license seeking a specialization in SPED (second license).

Why earn a MATSPED?

This master's degree can provide added value to your career progression and financial compensation.

- According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median national annual salary for special education teachers is \$57,910.
- Many districts pay special education teachers a \$1,000–\$3,000 stipend each year.
- Teachers with a master's could earn a starting salary of \$5,000 more than a teacher with only a bachelor's in many school districts, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

About the MATSPED program:

- Potential to graduate in two to four years.
- \$3,685 tuition per six-month term includes resource and program fees.
- Designed to prepare you for licensure in all 50 states.

Program curriculum.

The MATSPED program is a self-paced, competency-based, online program designed to meet CEC and CAEP standards in preparing you to work with students with exceptionalities. The program is intended to lead to your initial licensure in special education as well as help prepare you for your EdTPA Special Education assessment. The curriculum includes:

- Intensive, fast-paced education in fundamental issues, special education policy, law, methodology, knowledge, authentic tasks, and skills for special education teachers.
- Simulated experiences where students role-play leading an Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting.
- ProCore courses that provide the foundational blocks of pedagogy and essential experiences students will need to succeed in teaching.
- Full-time demonstration student teaching with a mentor teacher under the supervision of WGU's field experience team in special education settings at the K-6 and 7-12 levels.

Why earn your degree at WGU?

According to 2019 Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System data, WGU's former MSSP program was ranked second in the country for graduates completing master's degrees in special education —and at almost a third of the cost of the number one-ranked institution.

We expect our new MATSPED program will perform just as well, if not better.

Online and Flexible

With no set log-in times, your effort, not a semester timetable, determines the pace of your progress. You can earn a highly respected teaching degree on your terms by completing most coursework on a schedule that works best for you.

Faculty Support

While you will do your coursework and even take exams online, you won't be alone. From the first day, you'll have regular, one-to-one support from a Program Mentor, and in each course, you'll work with a Course Instructor who is an expert in the subject matter.

About WGU.

WGU is a nonprofit university committed to providing accessible, affordable, high-quality education that meets the needs of working adults by offering online degree programs that are respected, recognized, and accredited. Our programs deliver superior results by preparing students to excel in the workplace with prove-what-you-know, competency-based learning and personalized faculty support.

Contact us.

Sign up to be informed when open enrollment begins for our May 2021 classes by visiting wgu.edu/MATSPED.

Affordable Tuition

Tuition for this program is charged at a flat rate once per six-month term, regardless of the number of courses you complete. Federal financial aid and scholarships are available to qualified students. This affordable tuition allows many students to graduate with little or no new student debt.

Accredited and Respected

WGU is a recognized national leader in online teacher education, providing a path for students to become licensed/certified teachers in each U.S. state and territory.

