





**Master of Arts in Teaching**  
**Special Education Initial Certification: Learning and Behavior Disorders (P-12) (P-12)**  
**Program Reference # 0456**

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

This Special Education initial certification program in Learning and Behavior Disorders (P-12), which will lead to a Master of Arts in Teaching, is for individuals who are seeking initial certification in LBD (P-12) (P-12) and may or may not be currently employed as a teacher of students with Learning and Behavior Disorders (P-12).

*This option is for those individuals with no prior teacher certification in any area.*

The 36-hour program consists of coursework in induction to the profession of special education, the diagnosis and assessment of learning and behavioral disabilities, prescriptive teaching, managing behavior disorders and positive behavior supports, research in special education, and special education law. If a student is currently employed or has verification of employment from a school district, the student may be eligible for a Temporary Provisional Teaching Certificate. If a student does not secure employment as the teacher of record in an LBD (P-12) setting during the program, the student will be required to complete the equivalent of the state required student teaching experience in an unpaid position in an accredited public school within WKU's service area. Graduates completing the equivalent of a student teaching experience will be eligible for a Statement of Eligibility for certification as a teacher of students with LBD (P-12). Students must submit passing scores on the Praxis II and be fully admitted to the professional education unit (teacher admissions) PRIOR to enrolling in SPED 590. Students must meet all state requirements for student teaching and initial certification. SPED 590 should be taken as the final course of the program. All courses in the program carry critical performance indicators (CPI's) that must be completed before the final course grade will be recorded. Each course's CPI becomes a part of the portfolio that is reviewed at the end of each semester for progress through the program.

NOTE: To be eligible to be recommended for teacher certification, students must document that they have receive passing score(s) on the required Praxis II examination(s).

**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

To be considered for admission, applicants must:

1. Document completion of a bachelor's degree with a major, or equivalent, in an approved subject area and from an accredited institution.
2. Present a letter of application including professional goals.
3. Document a cumulative overall grade point average (GPA) of 2.75 or above (counting all coursework, undergraduate or graduate).
4. Submit the state required passing score on the Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST).
5. Submit documentation to satisfy partial criteria for admission to professional education, including references, physical including TB test, signed commitment to uphold the code of ethics, and criminal background check.

*NOTE: Students who have not had an introductory-level special education course within the past ten years must complete SPED 516 The Exceptional Child Perspectives and Issues, as a deficiency, prior to enrollment in any of the MAT courses for special education.*

**APPLICATION DEADLINES**

Along with all graduate studies admission deadlines (see current graduate catalog), for priority consideration for admission to the Special Education Initial Certification: Learning and Behavior Disorders (P-12) MAT program, students should submit application materials to graduate studies by the following dates:

**SUMMER ADMISSION - MARCH 1**

**FALL ADMISSION – MAY 1**

**SPRING ADMISSION – NOVEMBER 1**

Students submitting application materials after the above deadline dates cannot be guaranteed that applications will be reviewed in time for admission for the upcoming term nor that course space will be available.

**DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

Special Education Initial Certification: Learning and Behavior Disorders (P-12) MAT

COURSE CATEGORY	SPECIAL EDUCATION LBD (P-12) REQUIREMENT
INTRODUCTION TO PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION	SPED 515: EDUCATION OF EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN (3 HRS)
EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY	LME 535: SURVEY OF EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY PRACTICES (3 HRS)
EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY	PSY 510: ADVANCED EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY (3 HRS)
DIVERSITY AND CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT	SPED 518: SEMINAR: CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES IN SPECIAL EDUCATION (3 HRS)
ASSESSMENT	SPED 530: ADVANCED ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUES (3 HRS)
LITERACY COMPONENT	LTCY 519: FOUNDATIONS OF READING INSTRUCTION (3 HRS)
RESEARCH SKILLS	SPED 534: RESEARCH IN EXCEPTIONAL CHILD EDUCATION (3 HRS)
CONTENT METHODS COURSE	SPED 533: SEMINAR: CURRICULUM FOR LEARNING AND BEHAVIOR DISORDERS (P-12) (3 HRS)
PROGRAM SPECIFIC ELECTIVES	SPED 531: ADVANCED PRESCRIPTIVE TEACHING (3 HRS) <i>Students must be admitted to the professional education unit before enrolling in this course.</i> SPED 630: SPECIAL EDUCATION LAW AND FINANCE (3 HRS) NOTE: Both courses (SPED 531 and SPED 630) required for the program
INTERNSHIP	SPED 590 ADVANCED INTERNSHIP IN EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION (6 HRS) <i>Students must be admitted to the professional education unit before enrolling in this course.</i> <i>This course should be taken as the final capstone course in the program.</i> <i>Students must have a passing score on the appropriate Praxis II test required by the state for certification prior to enrolling in this course.</i> NOTE: Students currently teaching in a classroom serving students with LBD (P-12) may use their current teaching position to meet this requirement with advisor approval. Students not currently teaching IN A CLASSROOM SERVING STUDENTS WITH LBD (P-12) must complete an internship experience, within the WKU service region, that is equivalent to state requirements for student teaching in a classroom serving students with Learning and Behavior Disorders (P-12).
TOTAL PROGRAM HOURS	36 HOURS

**PROGRAM COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS**

Special Education Initial Certification: Learning and Behavior Disorders (P-12) MAT

- Students must successfully complete the internship course, SPED 590: Advanced Internship in Exceptional Education (6 hours) with a course grade of C or higher, and complete a proficient or exemplary teacher work sample as their capstone experience.
- Students must achieve a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA overall and in program course work.

**EPSB Disclaimer:** Teacher certification requirements are subject to change. Before registering for the test(s), please refer to the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) website at [www.epsb.ky.gov](http://www.epsb.ky.gov) for current requirements or contact the Division of Professional Learning and Assessment at 502-564-4606 or toll free 888-598-7667.

Candidate's Name (Printed)

Advisor's Signature (Printed)

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Candidate's Signature/Date

Advisors Signature/Date

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