

MEd – Curriculum & Instruction

Area of Emphasis: Special Education

Designed to equip licensed elementary, middle, and high school teachers with the knowledge and skills necessary to address the distinct learning needs of students with disabilities, the Special Education area of emphasis will provide teachers with research-based strategies to support these students in the general curriculum settings. Target knowledge and skills include:

- Knowledge of the historical, ethical, and legal foundations of the field of special education
- Development and implementation of individualized education programs (IEPs)
- Knowledge of best practices in assessment and evaluation of students with disabilities
- Implementation of instructional strategies in reading, writing, and mathematics to meet the diverse needs of students with disabilities

All Curriculum & Instruction MEd students are required to take five classes in the Curriculum & Instruction (C&I) core (15 hours) and five classes in an area of emphasis. The C&I core classes consists of four pillars—instruction, curriculum, assessment, and diversity. Students must successfully pass a comprehensive exam which is embedded in a culminating C&I course (EDIS 6880).

Course Descriptions

EDIS 5000: The Exceptional Learner

Introduction to the study of exceptional children and adults. Extends principles of learning and intellectual, socio-cultural, emotional, and physical development to persons with disabilities. Includes gifted, autism, TBI, dyslexia, ADHD and other medical conditions; historical, ethical, and legal aspects; application of federal/state regulatory requirements; identification, education, and evaluation of students with disabilities.

EDIS 5142: IEP Development and Implementation

This class will focus on the development of legally appropriate IEPs and their application to instructional planning. Students will gain knowledge of the eligibility process, as well as legal and regulatory requirements of IEP development and implementation.

EDIS 5230: Reading and Writing Instructional for Special Education

This course provides an examination of current reading and writing research and its implications for assessment and instruction for students with reading and writing disabilities. This course focuses on the assessment and diagnosis of reading and writing difficulties and instructional strategies for addressing literacy problems. Students will learn how to conduct literacy diagnoses, develop case reports, and develop programs based on assessment.

EDIS 5060: Math Instruction for Special and Elementary Education

Teaches special education preservice teachers the Virginia Mathematics Standards of Learning (SOL) K-12 content strands: Number and Number Sense; Computation and Estimation; Measurement; Geometry: Probability and Statistics; and Patterns, Functions, and Algebra. This course also focuses on the mathematical adaptations through Problem Solving, Reasoning and Proof, Mathematical Communication, Mathematical Connections, and Representation.

Choose one of the following:

EDIS 5143: Transition Planning (Interest in grades 6-8 or Secondary)

This course will address transition planning and the strategies for assisting students in special education to move across the grades and from school to postsecondary placements. Students will gain skills to prepare them to work with families and community agencies to provide successful student transitions throughout the educational experience.

EDIS 5040: Assessment and Evaluation in Special Education (Interest in Grades K-6)

Presents cognitive and behavioral instructional approaches for teaching children with special needs in a variety of service delivery options. Emphasis is given to collaborating and adapting instruction, assessment, and materials within inclusion and special education placements to support student achievement of the Virginia Standards of Learning. Co-requisite EDIS 4887

Recommended Plan of Study

Special Education Area of Emphasis

Recommended Plan (Coursework Only)	Offered	Requirement(s) Filled	Credits
Suggested plan: Please see your advisor for specifics. Students need to check their SIS Advising Reports to verify program completion progress.			
Semester 1 (Fall)			
EDIS 5025: Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment	Fall, Spring, Summer	C&I Core: Instruction (Required)	3
EDIS 5000: Exceptional Learner	Fall, Spring, Summer	Focus: SPED	3
Semester 2 (Spring)			
EDIS 6200: Principles of Curriculum Design	Fall, Spring, Summer	C&I Core: Instruction	3
EDIS 5142: IEP Development and Implementation	Spring, Summer	Focus: SPED	3
Semester 3 (Summer)			
EDIS 5230: Reading and Writing Instruction for Special Education	Spring, Summer	Focus: SPED	3
EDIS 5143: Transition Planning (for grades 6-12) OR EDIS 5040: Assessment and Evaluation in Special Education (for grades K-6)	Summer, Fall	Focus: SPED	3
Semester 4 (Fall)			
EDIS 6220: Assessment of Curriculum: K-12	Fall, Spring	C&I Core: Assessment	3
EDIS 5422: Cross-Cultural Education for Diverse Learners	Fall, Spring, Summer	C&I Core: Diversity	3
Semester 5 (Spring)			
EDIS 6880: Master Comprehensive in Curriculum and Instruction	Fall, Spring, Summer	C&I Core: Culminating Class	3
EDIS 5060: Math Instruction for Special and Elementary Education	Fall, Spring, Summer	Focus: SPED	3
Total Credits			30