**Master of Arts in Education Special Education**

The 39-semester hour and 13-course master of arts in education in special education degree offers an opportunity for advanced study for individuals who presently hold, or are eligible to hold, an initial special education teaching license. Completers are eligible for North Carolina M-Level Licensure in one of four concentration-specific areas: behavioral and emotional disabilities, intellectual disabilities, learning disabilities, or low incidence disabilities. The distance education program can be completed in two years with enrollment in two courses each semester and summer session.

Throughout this program, students explore current issues and trends in special education, assessment, technology, leadership, behavior management, and collaboration. Two concentration-specific courses further students’ knowledge and skills in evidence-based research and practice, decision-making, and planning/implementing/evaluating evidence-based instructional strategies. Across a two-semester capstone experience, students design and carry out an action research project or thesis in their concentration-specific area.

For more information on the MAEd in Special Education, contact:

**Department of Special Education, Foundations, and Research**
**College of Education**
**East Carolina University**
warrens@ecu.edu
252-328-2699

“My experience in the graduate program at ECU has been amazing! As a returning student, I was intimidated by the online component but my professors were very supportive and the tools were easy to use. The coursework has been meaningful and has made me not only a better teacher, but a better teacher leader. I’ve had opportunities I would not have had elsewhere including attending statewide trainings specifically in my field. I couldn’t have chosen a better program!”

“The MAEd SPED graduate degree at ECU brings light to research-based intervention strategies that can be used in the classroom. This program has opened my eyes to the positive impact that interventions can have when used correctly in the school setting! The mark that has been left on me the most out of this whole degree is the research, and how research-based strategies are supposed to be used in the classroom. It really opened my eyes to the fact that you can “teach” or you can TEACH with strategies.”
The MAEd in Special Education

Is online learning right for me? Completing a distance education degree is a good choice for many students, particularly those with full-time employment or family obligations. Distance learning offers convenience and flexibility, but requires the same level of commitment and effort as attending an on-campus course. Our program uses a cohort model offering students the opportunity to progress through their degree with the same group of peers. Very quickly, students find creative ways to connect with their colleagues! Class assignments may include: text and electronic readings, tests and quizzes, interactive online modules, discussion groups, and collaborative projects with classmates.

What are the admission requirements? The online application is completed through the Graduate School and includes a copy of the applicant’s current initial teaching license, three professional references, scores from the GRE or MAT, and an official copy of all undergraduate and graduate transcripts. Additional information: www.ecu.edu/cs-educ/sefr/sped/graduate.cfm

Are there opportunities for scholarships? Yes! The College of Education offers more than $200,000 in scholarships that range from $250 to $7,000 each year. The deadline for the scholarship application is January 30. Information on specific scholarship opportunities and help in preparing your application is available at: www.ecu.edu/cs-educ/odc/scholarships.cfm

Who are the Special Education faculty? The Special Education faculty members are a diverse group of national and international leaders in their respective fields. They are dedicated to providing the instruction, challenge, and support necessary for student success.

Graduate Certificate Programs

Graduate certificates are designed to offer additional training in specialty areas and enhance individual's knowledge, skills, and credentials. Each online program includes four to five courses and can be successfully completed in one to two years. Focused advanced coursework in the following certificate areas include Assistive Technology, Autism, Behavior Specialist, Deaf-blindness. Additional information: www.ecu.edu/cs-educ/sefr/sped/sped_grad_cert.cfm

To learn more about MAEd program and SPED graduate certificates (including admission requirements), contact:
Dr. Sandra Warren
warrens@ecu.edu
252-328-2699

MAEd in Special Education website:
http://www.ecu.edu/cs-educ/sefr/sped/graduate.cfm