

Western Illinois University
Bachelor of Science in Education
Special Education
(Catalog 2023-2024)

Western Illinois University	Phone Numbers:
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Transfer guides are produced as a service to MCC students. Every effort is made to maintain up-to-date and accurate information; however, this information is subject to change. Such changes take precedence over the information on this guide. Students should work with an MCC advisor and the four-year transfer school. Responsibility for complying with all applicable requirements ultimately rests with the student.

The State of Illinois and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) approve WIU's Teacher Education Programs. Students completing the Special Education program will qualify for Illinois licensure to teach exceptional children kindergarten through age 21 as Learning Behavior Specialist I. Students may work toward licensure in both Special Education and Elementary Education. The requirements below must be met to be considered for admission into the Teacher Education Program.

Transfer Options

- **Associate in Arts (AA) or Associate in Science (AS) Degree** - Transfer students who receive an AA or AS degree from an Illinois public community college and have a cumulative GPA of 2.00 or higher (using coursework from all colleges attended) are guaranteed the following:
 - Minimum of 60 semester hours in transfer credit
 - Junior status
 - WIU General Education requirements satisfied (Students in the College or Arts and Sciences may be required to complete additional semester hours of coursework at WIU to satisfy College curriculum requirements.)
 - Individual majors may require specific general core coursework
- **Illinois Articulation Initiative** - Transfer students who have been certified by a participating Illinois college or university as having completed the IAI GECC will be considered as having satisfied WIU's general education requirements (individual majors may require specific coursework).
- **For students who transfer prior to completing an AA or AS degree or the IAI core:**
 - Transfer WIU credit back to MCC to complete the AA or the AS degree (Once at WIU, it is important to work with a WIU and an MCC advisor if using this option to complete lower-level general education coursework.)
 - Complete the IAI GECC at WIU (For students with fewer than 30 semester hours of WIU transfer credit, an additional 6 hours of approved IAI or WIU gen ed coursework must be completed or WIU General Education Curriculum at WIU - 43 hours)
- **Please note that the Special Education program requires specific general education courses, regardless of AA or IAI GECC completion.** See the Education Plan on the last page of this guide.

Admission Notes

- Students are admitted to Western Illinois University through the Office of Admissions. Admission to the University does not automatically constitute acceptance to the Teacher Education Program
- **Application deadline:** Applications for admission to the University are accepted throughout the year. Recommended application deadline for Spring semester is December 1 and for Fall Semester is August 1. To apply online: www.wiu.edu/admissions/apply_now/
- **Transfer criteria:** Students applying who have completed 24 or more semester hours of college credit with a 2.0 GPA are accepted to the University.
- **Admission to Teacher Education Program:** For complete requirements, go to <http://www.wiu.edu/coehs/teacher/>.
 - Completion of at least 30 semester hours of approved coursework and an established WIU GPA.
 - Minimum of 2.5 cumulative GPA and major GPA of 2.5 (GPA includes transfer and WIU coursework)

- Recommendations from major and minor departmental faculty while attending WIU
- Portfolio requirement – may be applicable. Students are encouraged, but not required, to retain coursework (papers, projects, audio or videotape of speeches/presentations, materials from clinical and volunteer experience, etc.) for possible inclusion in their portfolio if applicable.
- Students will complete an FBI fingerprint background investigation before all field experiences.
- Students must successfully complete English Language Learning Modules while attending WIU.
- Transfer students will file an application for Teacher Education Program their first semester at WIU.

Additional Information

- **Maximum hours from a community college** - Students are required to complete 60 semester hours at a four-year institution, 42 semester hours of which must be in upper-level coursework.
- **Grade requirements** - Effective February 2012, all teacher education graduates will be required to have earned a **minimum grade of C for all courses in their program** (gen ed, core courses and courses within the major option).
- **GPA calculation for admission** – For repeat courses, WIU uses the most recent repeated grade for calculating.
- **The Western Commitment Transfer Scholarships**
 - Students who transfer with a 3.0 cumulative GPA will qualify for automatic transfer scholarships.
 - For details about the new scholarships, refer to WIU’s website: www.wiu.edu/scholarships
- **Cost guarantee**
 - WIU freezes tuition for four years as long as continuous enrollment at WIU is maintained.
 - WIU’s academic year runs fall through summer, so students who begin WIU coursework during the summer after will lock in current rate.

Education Plan

Completion of coursework in the education plan will satisfy MCC’s AA degree, WIU’s general education requirements and specific requirements for Special Education. Refer to MCC’s current catalog for IAI course options and detailed AA degree requirements. A minimum grade of C for all courses is required (gen ed, core courses and courses within the major option).

MCC AA Degree Requirements		MCC AA Degree Requirements	
MCC Courses	Credits	MCC Courses	Credits
Communications (9 SH) _____ ENG 151 Composition I 3 _____ ENG 152 Composition II 3 _____ SPE 151 Introduction to Speech 3		Diversity & Multicultural Studies Two 3-credit hour courses are required. Courses that fulfill this requirement may be used to satisfy requirements in Humanities/ Fine Arts, Social/Behavioral Sciences, or Electives. See current MCC catalog or AA planning sheet for course options. Recommended: either GEG202 or 203 (WIU world geography requirement satisfied)	
Humanities & Fine Arts (9 SH) (No more than 2 courses can be chosen with the same prefix.) _____ ART 151 or MUS151 or THE151 Art, Music or Theatre Appreciation 3 _____ IAI Humanities or Fine Arts 3 _____ IAI Humanities 3		Electives Select from courses listed below. Complete a minimum number of elective credits to satisfy total credits required for the AA degree (60 credits).	
Physical and Life Sciences (8 SH) _____ IAI Physical Science w/lab 4 _____ IAI Biology 4		_____ EDU 252 Children’s Literature (EI Ed) 3 _____ EDU 255 Diversity of Schools (EI Ed & Sp Ed); prereq EDU251 3 _____ EDU 261 Intro to Foundations of Reading 3	
Social & Behavioral Sciences (9 SH) _____ HIS 170 or 172 US History I or II 3 _____ PLT 151 US Government 3 _____ PSY 151 Intro to Psychology 3		_____ Additional credits to complete 60 credit AA requirement – select with advisor. Consider prerequisite courses that may be needed towards selected minor at WIU.	
Mathematics (6 SH) _____ MAT 201 Math Foundations for Elem Educ I 3 _____ MAT 202 Math Foundations for Elem Educ II 3		Total Credits Required for AA Degree - 60	