

WGU Supports Special Education In Minnesota

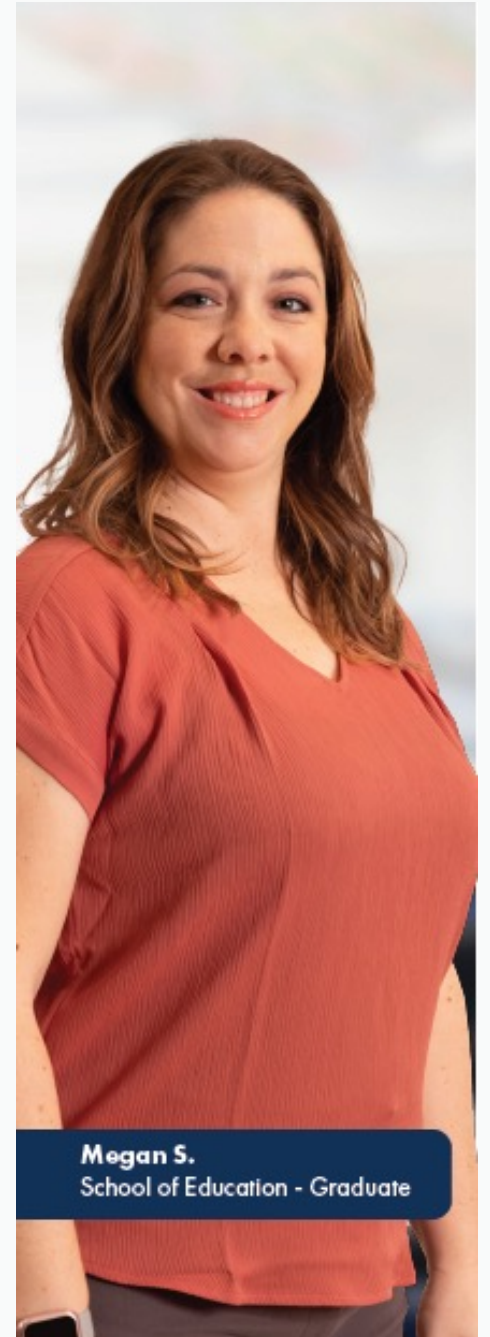
Western Governors University

March 12, 2024



Today's Agenda

- About Western Governors University
- WGU's School of Education
- Licensure and Clinical Experiences
- Q & A
- Next Steps



Megan S.
School of Education - Graduate

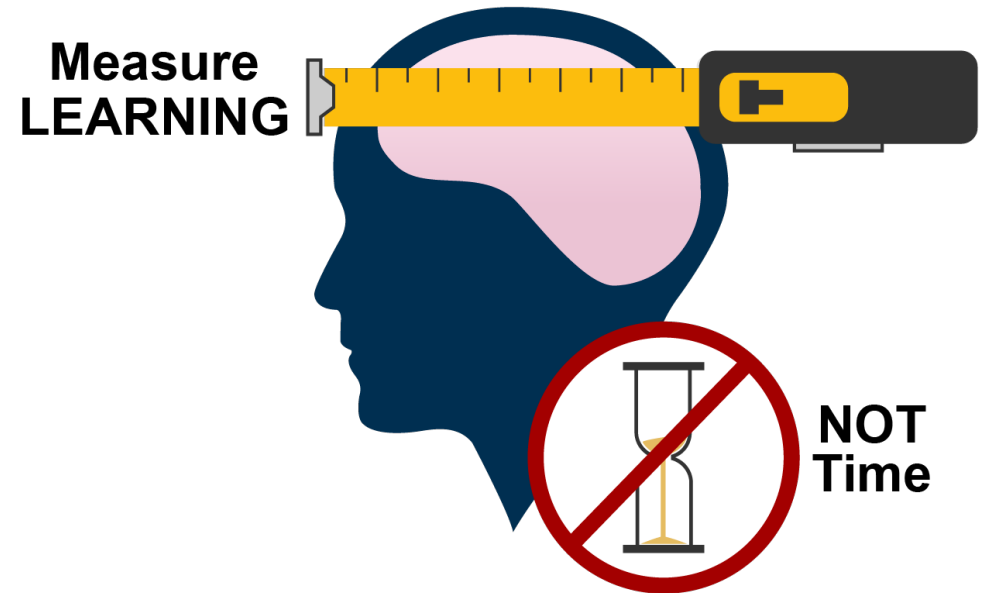
Overview of Western Governors University

- **Founded in 1997**
- **Institutionally and Regionally Accredited**
- **Competency-based Education**
 - Progress when you're ready, mastering material at your own speed.
- **Flexible**
 - Study online anytime, anywhere with 24/7 access to courses.
- **Personalized**
 - Receive tailored support from experienced educators from day one.
- **Proven**
 - Trust in over 20 years of expertise in educator preparation.

COMPETENCY-BASED EDUCATION

Recognizes people have different levels of knowledge and learn at different rates.

- Hold learning constant, let time vary
- Advance when mastery demonstrated
- Personalize and adapt learning path
- Focus on relevance and outcomes



ONLINE ≠ CBE

SPECIALIZED FACULTY

Curriculum & Assessment Developers

- Design curriculum, assessments to defined learning outcomes
- Select and develop course materials

Program Mentors

- Dedicated, program-level SMEs providing 1:1 support across program journey

Course Instructors

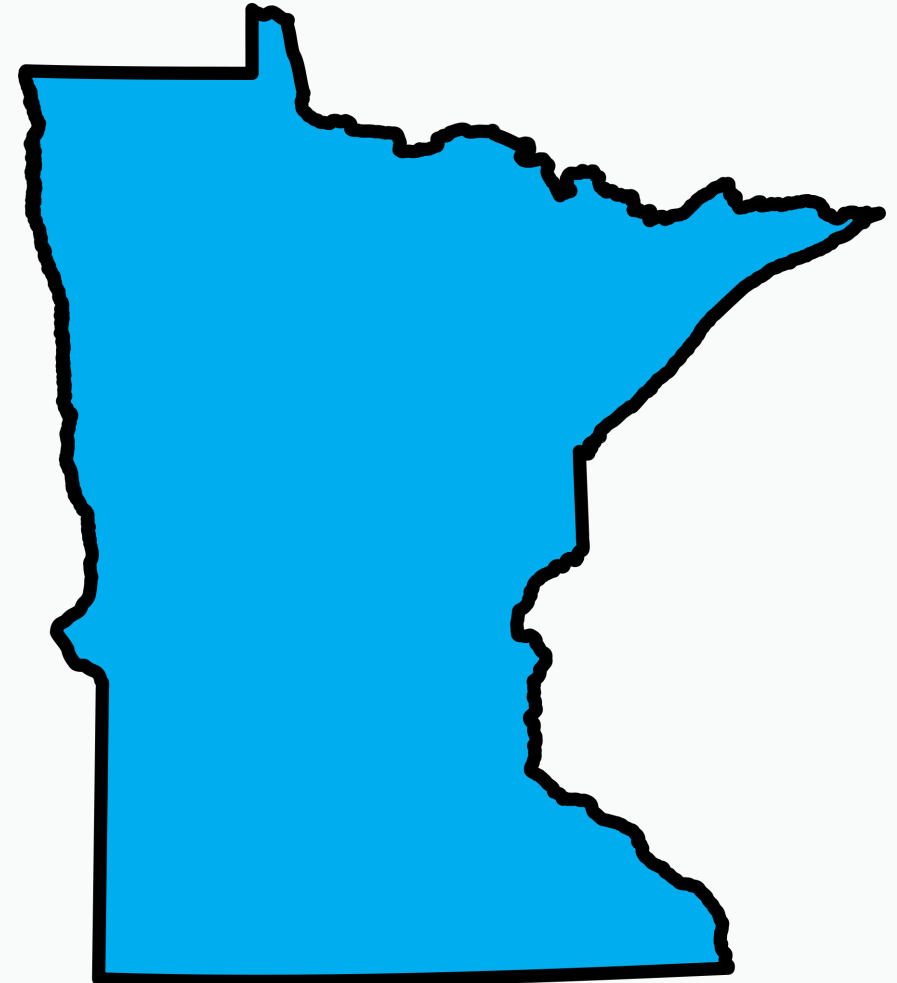
- Provide individualized instruction interventions as students work thru courses
- Lead group sessions / study groups to dive deep on critical concepts or big ideas

Evaluators & Clinical Faculty

- Evaluate and validate student competency, providing individualized feedback

WGU in Minnesota

- 4,680 WGU graduates since 1998
 - 972 School of Education graduates
- 1,625 active WGU students
 - 376 active students in the School of Education
 - 78% female
 - 19% military
 - 30% first-generation
 - 38% rural



WGU SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Launched in 2003, WGU's School of Education is the largest non-profit, accredited school of education in the country.

We provide a rich array of learning pathways in a proven, student-centered, competency-based model with flexible scheduling.

WGU's School of Education is in the top 1% for granting degrees for Black and Hispanic educators at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

AT WGU, OUR MISSION IS CLEAR:

**TO CHANGE
LIVES
FOR THE BETTER
BY CREATING
PATHWAYS TO
OPPORTUNITY.**

WGU SCHOOL OF EDUCATION:

PROUDLY NONPROFIT

WGU FOUNDED IN 1997 BY A BIPARTISAN GROUP OF 19 GOVERNORS

ONLINE COURSES WITH ON-GROUND STUDENT TEACHING AND CLINICAL EXPERIENCES

COMPETENCY-BASED AND SELF-PACED

WGU IS REGIONALLY ACCREDITED BY NWCCU

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION IS ACCREDITED BY CAEP & AAQEP

HIGH-QUALITY, INNOVATIVE, AND OUTCOMES-ORIENTED

30+ DEGREES OFFERED

IN INITIAL LICENSURE AND ADVANCED LICENSURE PROGRAMS AND NON-LICENSURE PROGRAMS

PREPARES CANDIDATES TO LICENSE IN ALL 50 STATES

IN INITIAL LICENSURE AND ADVANCED LICENSURE PROGRAMS AND NON-LICENSURE PROGRAMS

43K+ ACTIVE STUDENTS IN U.S.

PLUS, A NETWORK OF MORE THAN 94K GRADUATES



OVERVIEW OF CLINICAL EXPERIENCE IN MN PRECLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Apply PreClinical Experience(PCE):

Liability Insurance

Background Clearance

Basic Skills Exam – *Take 6 months prior to application for PreClinical Experiences. Must pass all Basic Skills Tests to apply and posted to the degree plan*

PreClinical Experience (PCE) – must complete PCE before applying for Student Teaching

Save your Preferred Level for Student Teaching – work with CFEF* to discuss Field Experience process (ex: if Preferred Level is Elementary SPED, TC will have a Split PCE placement in Middle School SPED **and** High School SPED)

MN SPED specific program

Mild/Moderate settings only (*no Severe+ settings*)

MATSPED (SPED only) – 2 total placements

Grades K-4 SPED, 5-8 SPED, 9-12 SPED – must have experience in all 2/3 settings for PCE

PCE placement is Split (2 placements)

BASPEE (Dual ELED/SPED) – 4 total placements

Secondary: Middle School **and** High School SPED

Elementary: Grades K-2 GenEd ELED **and** 3-5 GenEd ELED (*no Elem SPED required*)

(2 placements for PCE and 2 for student teaching)

*TC = Teacher Candidate

*CFEF = Clinical Field Experience Facilitator

*PCE=PreClinical Experience

OVERVIEW OF CLINICAL EXPERIENCE IN MN STUDENT TEACHING

Apply STUDENT TEACHING:

Liability Insurance

Background Clearance

Content Exams – Take 6 months prior to application for student teaching. Must be *Attempted and posted to the degree plan to apply for Student Teaching*

Credit Units (CUs) – must be at 0 (zero) CUs

PreClinical Experience (PCE) – must complete PCE before applying for Student Teaching

Save your Preferred Level for Student Teaching – work with CFEF* to discuss Field Experience process (ex: if Preferred Level is Elementary SPED, TC will have a Split PCE placement in Middle School SPED **and** High School SPED)

Once all requirements are met, TC works with PM*and CFEF* to determine *when* to officially apply for Student Teaching

Student Teaching Application is open the First Week of each month (1st-7th)

MN SPED specific program

Mild/Moderate settings only (no Severe+ settings)

MATSPED (SPED only) – 3 total placements

Grades K-4 SPED, 5-8 SPED, 9-12 SPED
– must have experience in all 3 settings

PCE placement is Split (2 placements)

Student Teaching is 1 setting (TOR for Student Teaching)

TC must have Tier 1 or Tier 2 license – required for TOR placement (License from State)

BASPEE (Dual ELED/SPED) – 4 total placements

Secondary: Middle School **and** High School SPED

Elementary: Grades K-2 GenEd ELED **and** 3-5 GenEd ELED (*no Elem SPED required*)

TOR-Not an option unless student has a Bachelor's degree due to IDEA.

*TC = Teacher Candidate

*PM = Program Mentor

*CFEF = Clinical Field Experience

Facilitator

*TOR = Teacher of Record

*PCE = PreClinical Experience

WGU Special Education Programs Preparing for Licensure

- Master of Arts in Teaching – Special Education (Mild to Moderate)
- Bachelor of Arts, Special Education and Elementary Education Dual Degree (Dual Licensure)
- Bachelor of Arts, Special Education Degree (Mild to Moderate)



Minnesota SPED Pipeline

Tier 1 & 2 Teachers and Paraeducators



Goal: Earn a Tier 3 License

Means: complete an educator preparation program in Special Education

Clinical experiences are interweaved throughout the program with student teaching as the culminating clinical experience.

- Candidates may already be working as teachers of record or as paraprofessionals supporting lead teachers in a classroom.
- Experience as a teacher of record counts toward WGU clinical experience requirements.
- Minnesota requires experience across grade bands and across disability areas:
 - Grade Bands: Primary Level (K-4), Middle Level (5-8), and Secondary Level (9-12).
 - Disability Areas: Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Developmental Cognitive Delays (DCD), Emotional or Behavioral Disorders (EBD), Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD), and Other Health Disorders (OHD).
- WGU supports our Minnesota candidates in completing clinical experiences across primary, middle, and secondary settings with populations representative of all disability areas.
 - Candidates may need to engage in experiences outside of the regular school day or switch schedules to meet Minnesota requirements.
 - Without clinical experiences across grade bands and disability areas, Minnesota may decline to issue a Tier 3 license or may restrict the grade levels attached to the Tier 3 license (e.g. Special Education: Academic and Behavioral Strategist, K-4 rather than the full K-12 span).

WGU and the Special Education Pipeline Grant

- WGU is an eligible institution for the Department of Education grants as a “Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)-accredited teacher preparation program from a private, not for profit, institution of higher education”
- WGU has partnered in Minnesota with:
 - Southwest West Central Service Cooperative
 - South Central Service Cooperative
 - Sourcewell
 - Intermediate School District 288

Next Steps for Interested Students...

- SWWC Applications for Tier I and II teachers will open on March 12th.
- Candidates will be informed by April 1st
- Research Programs and Universities

Q & A



SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Thank you

www.wgu.edu/mneducation

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SCHOOL OF EDUCATION