

Our Mission

The College of Education and Human Development and the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation are committed to providing coursework and experiences which allow students to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes conducive to their professions. Students develop skills which allow them to analyze programmatic needs, deliver programs which meet specific needs and self assess professional effectiveness through reflective practices.



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
College of Education and
Human Development

Contact Information

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Federally Funded Special (Adapted) Physical Education

Master of Arts Hybrid Online Program



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
College of Education and
Human Development

Master of Arts in Special (Adapted) Physical Education

The federally funded Master of Arts in Special (Adapted) Physical Education is an exciting program structured in a way that allows students to develop a professional philosophy, acquire research skills and increase professional competencies through the completion of this program that combines online courses and classroom courses.

This program is designed to prepare physical education teachers in providing quality special (adapted) physical education for school children with disabilities in the least restrictive, most appropriate, and most inclusive environments.

Program includes:

- 36 credit hours for degree completion
 - Up to 27 online credit hours
 - At least 9 traditional face-to-face hours
- Program graduates are endorsed to teach physical education for children with disabilities with a valid teaching certificate in physical education or special education (depending on certification process in state of residence)

State Approval: The State of Michigan established approval guidelines for teachers of physical education to educate individuals with disabilities. Students must complete 22 credits, (18 credits in area of specialization and 4 credits in capstone) possess a valid Michigan teaching certificate and an endorsement in physical education, special education, or both and complete a State Approval Application. An approval give the student the ability to teach children who attend Intermediate School Districts.

Physical education and special education teachers with special (adapted) physical education credentials are able to teach individuals with physical needs in the areas of fundamental motor skills, physical and motor fitness, as well as skills in aquatic, dance, individual and group games and sports, and leisure and recreational skills.

Program Components and Course Requirements

Students work with their Special (Adapted) Physical Education advisor upon acceptance to the program to develop and plan their curriculum.

Course	Course Description
Core Courses (6 credits)	
HPER 6900	Research Procedures in HPER (3 credits)
HPER 6920	Analytical Techniques in HPER (3 credits)
Area of Specialization (18 credits)	
Physical Education Majors	
HPER 6210	Physical Activity for Exceptional Children (3 credits)
HPER 6220	Programming in Special Physical Education (3 credits)
HPER 6250	Assessment in Special Physical Education (3 credits)
SPED 5300*	Introduction to Special Education (3 credits)
SPED 6380*	Application of Behavior Theory to Classroom Teaching (3 credits)
SPED 6610*	Transdisciplinary Teaming (3 credits)
Special Education Majors	
HPER 6210	Physical Activity for Exceptional Children (3 credits)
HPER 6220	Programming in Special Physical Education (3 credits)
HPER 6250	Assessment in Special Physical Education (3 credits)
HPER 6400	Instructional Materials in Physical Education (3 credits)
HPER 6410	Teaching and Supervision Skills in Physical Education (3 credits)
HPER 6450	Curriculum Development in HPER (3 credits)
Elective Options (3 or 6 credit hours)	
HPER 6420	Human Growth and Motor Development (3 credits)
HPER 6430*	Physical Skill Acquisition and Motor Learning (3 credits)
HPER 6450	Curriculum Development in HPER (3 credits)
HPER 6910*	Psychological Preparation and Mental Training for Sport and Physical Activity (3 credits)
HPER 6930*	Sociology of Sport and Physical Activities (3 credits)
Capstone (6 or 9 credit hours)	
HPER 7120	Professional Field Experience (3 credits)
HPER 7100	Independent Research (3 credits)
Or	
HPER 7000	Thesis (6 credits) - Only 3 elective hours required if taking HPER 7000.

* Denotes courses that may be taken at WMU main campus or at an institution near student with prior program advisor approval.

Admission Information

Advising is extremely important to student success. Students should be in contact with the program advisor to smoothly progress through the program prior to applying. Visit <http://www.wmich.edu/coe/hper/special-adapted/application.htm> for additional information then complete the following steps:

- Submit the online graduate application at www.wmich.edu/apply/graduate
- Request the registrar of each college previously attended (except WMU) to send two official transcripts to:
 - Office of Admissions
 - Western Michigan University
 - 1903 West Michigan Ave.
 - Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5211
- Send three letters of references to:
 - Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation
 - Western Michigan University
 - 1903 W. Michigan Ave.
 - Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5426
 - Fax: (269) 387-2704

Admission requirements include:

- A bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.
- A valid Teaching Certificate will be required for students seeking to obtain additional state approvals (endorsements).

Scholarships

All graduate students accepted into this program will receive 100% tuition support from the federal grant by the U.S. Department of Education. For those students who are willing to teach physical activity courses, graduate assistant positions are available in the federal grant and Department of HPER (visit www.wmich.edu/coe/hper/finaid.htm for more information).

