M.Ed. in Special Education, General Education Concentration

Application Deadlines: Fall/Summer (March 15), Spring (Nov. 1)- Late applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis

Step 1: Create Your Application Account: Go to this website https://www.vcu.edu/admissions/apply/graduate/ and below “Graduate Programs”, choose “2024 Applications” then “Application for all other graduate programs”.

Step 2: Statement of Intent: VCU requires that prospective students provide a written statement of purpose for all graduate program applicants (2 pages, double spaced). See the following prompts of what to include in your statement:

1. Highlight Your Motivation: Explain why you are passionate about pursuing a master's in special education. Share personal experiences or insights that have motivated you to enter this field.
2. Connect Your Academic and Professional Experiences: Discuss your relevant academic and professional background. Emphasize any coursework, certifications, or prior experiences that have prepared you for this program.
3. Address Your Goals: Clearly outline your career goals and how obtaining this master's degree will help you achieve them. Be specific about the impact you hope to make in the field of special education.
4. Emphasize Your Connections to our Mission: Explain why you believe this particular program supports your career and mission/vision goals.

Step 3: References: The system has an area for you to submit the names and emails of three letters of reference. This will send an email directly to the recommenders to fill out a short survey and upload your letter of recommendation. Note: You can add a note to suggest areas you would like your reference to highlight to strengthen your application.

Step 4: Transcripts: You can upload PDF copies of your unofficial transcripts for the review/decision process. You will be required to submit official academic transcripts from all institutions you have attended in order to enroll. VCU alumni- please note your years attended and your transcripts will manually be added. Official transcripts can be mailed to the following:

Virginia Commonwealth University
Office of Graduate Admissions, Box 843051 / Richmond, Virginia 23284-3051
E-Transcripts: gradmail@vcu.edu
Step 6: **Submit application fee** and **push submit**: You have the option to submit without the application fee yet your application will not be moved forward for review until the application fee is submitted.

*If you are a current VCU student who is eligible for the RAM Opportunity, please do not submit your application fee. The fee will automatically be waived within 2 business days of submitting your application.*

Step 7: **Receiving and accepting your admissions decision**: Your official admissions letter will come from VCU graduate admissions and you will **accept your offer through your VCU admissions online portal**. This will allow the system to create a formal account that will allow you to register.

Step 8: Review the [Accepted Graduate Student Checklist](#) for critical next steps as you transition to VCU.

Please contact us at with any questions throughout the process: soeinfo@vcu.edu and/or soeogs@vcu.edu.