



About WGU

News Brief - 7/27/07

Contact:

Gwen Castaldi  
 WGU Director of Public Relations  
 801-290-3600  
[gcastaldi@wgu.edu](mailto:gcastaldi@wgu.edu)

**New Online Master's Program at Western Governors University  
 Opens Opportunities for Teachers to  
 Become Qualified in Special Education**

SALT LAKE CITY -- Enrollment is open now at the Teachers College of Western Governors University ([www.wgu.edu](http://www.wgu.edu)) for those teachers who want to become highly-qualified special education teachers through online study. A non-profit online university, WGU is now offering the Master of Science in Special Education (PK-12), which prepares teachers to work effectively in special education classrooms with students who have mild to moderate cross-categorical disabilities.

The Master of Science in Special Education is perfect for teachers who want to earn a special education endorsement, to improve their knowledge and credentials, and to move to a higher pay scale. National surveys show that teachers with master's degrees earn, on average, \$10,000 more per year than those with only a bachelor's degree. The program's course of study integrates best practices in special education, instructional design, and development of graduate level research abilities. Students must already have a bachelor's degree and an endorsement in elementary education or related areas to be accepted into the program.

WGU is the only online university in the nation to receive accreditation from the National Council for Accreditation in Teacher Education (NCATE). WGU is also accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. The university is a non-profit, private university that is competency-based, allowing students to draw upon prior academic training and experience to progress at personalized rates of progress. Tuition is an affordable \$ 2,790 per six-month term, much less than many reputable online universities. Most students can complete this program in two to three years.

Part of WGU's mission is to improve quality and expand access to education by working to help school districts fill their needs with teachers who meet the requirements of the No Child Left Behind legislation. The WGU Teachers College currently serves over 4,000 students.

For more about the Master of Science in Special Education (PK-12), go to <http://www.wgu.edu/specialed> or call enrollment at 1-866-225-5948.

**About Western Governors University (WGU)**

WGU is the only accredited university in the U.S. offering online competency-based degree programs. The private non-profit university was founded and is supported by 19 governors, as well as more than 20 leading corporations and foundations, which include corporations and foundations such as Hospital Corporation of America, Microsoft, Qwest, Zions Bank and Farmers Insurance. WGU offers bachelor's and master's degrees in business, information technology, teacher education and health professions, with students in all 50 states and 10 foreign countries. More information is available at [www.wgu.edu](http://www.wgu.edu).

- Accreditation
- Financial Aid
- Is online study for you?
- WGU Student Experience
- See videos of past graduation ceremonies



**"Competency-based..."**

"I like the idea of a competency-based program. In some areas I already had expertise and skills so I could take an independent study class and build the portfolio and take the exams. In other areas I needed more instruction."

—Gretchen Burr, WGU graduate, high school teacher

**"I am an expert..."**

"Western Governors has raised the bar for online courses. Instead of graduating from their courses and saying, "I have passed all of the requirements," they want their students to say, "I graduated from WGU and I am an expert in the field of..."

—Jeffrey Cravy, WGU graduate student

**"Competency-based..."**

"Google has pioneered the idea of access to information. The reason Google thinks WGU is such a good idea is because WGU has pioneered the concept of competency-based education whenever you want it."

—Eric Schmidt, CEO of Google Inc.

[more testimonials >](#)

REQUEST MORE INFO >