

**The University of North Carolina  
Request for Authorization to Discontinue a Degree Program  
UNC Wilmington  
M.Ed. in Special Education**

*Explain why the program is being discontinued. If the program addresses high priority needs, how will those needs be addressed by other programs? Describe steps to be taken to allow students enrolled in the program to complete their courses of study.*

The M.Ed. program in Special Education at UNCW has been in an inactive state since the 2007-08 academic year. Interest and enrollment in this graduate program has traditionally been lowest among all of the programs offered in the Watson School of Education. Although significant effort was expended to market and recruit for this program, qualified candidates showed little interest in pursuing an advanced degree in this discipline.

Special education is an area of high need in terms of teacher production, however, the M.Ed. program in Special Education leads to an M Level teaching license and as such does not impact the production of new special education teachers. Discontinuation of the graduate program will allow the Special Education faculty to focus its recruiting and preparation efforts on undergraduate and licensure-only candidates seeking initial licensure.

Currently, no students are enrolled in the M.Ed. in Special Education program and no new students have been accepted to the program this year. As such, no steps are required to help students complete the program of study.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve UNC Wilmington's request to discontinue the M. Ed. in Special Education.