About the Mathematics Education Center

The Mathematics Education Center (MEC) is part of the Graduate School of Education in the College of Education and Human Development at George Mason University. The MEC focuses on strong research and public service components supported and sustained by outside funding sources. Its mission is accomplished through three major initiatives: conducting research in mathematics education, providing professional development for educators, and designing instructional materials for school mathematics. A unique focus of the Center is the study of mathematical representations, including physical and virtual manipulatives. In addition, the MEC collaborates with George Mason’s Mathematics Education Leadership programs to support the scholarly research and professional development of PhD and master’s degree students enrolled in the programs.

For more information, contact:
The Mathematics Education Center
Phone: 703-993-4789
E-mail: mathcntr@gmu.edu
About the Program
The Math Specialist Leader concentration is a unique MEd degree in Mathematics Education Leadership for people who want to become K-8 mathematics specialists. The 33-credit program is designed for working professionals—courses are offered in the evenings, and seminar courses meet once a month on Saturdays. Most people complete the program in three years or less. The concentration focuses on mathematics education leadership, with specific course work in mathematics content for the K-8 school setting. Students study teaching, curriculum, and professional development programs for teachers. They also explore school-based leadership issues in mathematics education.

Courses currently are offered on George Mason University’s Fairfax Campus. Additional courses may be offered off-site at school system locations as demand for the program increases. Students may begin the program during the summer, fall, or spring semester. They may take two classes before applying to the program. To enroll in these classes, applicants should go online and register for courses as Nondegree students or apply directly to the College of Education and Human Development as Nondegree students. Up to 12 credits in mathematics content only can be transferred from a Virginia partner institution to the George Mason program. Transferred credits are dependent upon the approval of the Mathematics Education Leadership Program coordinator.

Math Specialist Leader Course Requirements

EDCI 645: Curriculum Development in Math Education*
EDCI 646: Math Education Leadership for School Change*
EDCI 666: Research in Math Teaching*
EDLE 616: Curriculum Development and Evaluation
EDLE 618: Supervision and Evaluation of Instruction
EDLE 791: Internship in Education Leadership (math education internship required)
MATH 600: Number Systems and Number Theory*
MATH 600: Geometry and Measurement*
MATH 600: Probability and Statistics*
MATH 600: Algebra and Functions*
MATH 600: Rational Numbers and Proportional Reasoning*

* 24-credit Math Specialist “endorsement only” component

Admissions Procedures
For admission to the graduate program, the applicant must:
- Complete a bachelor’s degree that included at least 6 credits of mathematics from an accredited institution;
- Have completed 2 years of successful teaching that included mathematics;
- Submit a complete application for graduate admission;
- Pay a $60 nonrefundable application fee;
- Submit two official transcripts from each institution attended;
- Submit three letters of recommendation targeting the applicant’s mathematics teaching and leadership abilities;
- Prepare a one- to two-page goals statement focused on mathematics education leadership; and
- Interview with the program director.

Application Information
To apply, go to http://admissions.gmu.edu/onapps.asp. You also can call the Mathematics Education Center to request the mailing of an application (703-993-4789).