

**Northern Kentucky University**

**Name of Program: Moderate and Severe Disabilities**

**Certification Level:**

**Graduate Level: Option 6 Certification Only**

**Program Codes:**

**KMS (3151)**

**Modes of Delivery: Face to Face**

**2016-17 Catalog URL: <http://nku.catalog.acalog.com/index.php?catoid=7>**

## Moderate and Severe Disabilities

### Admission requirements: Option 6 Route- Refer to Curriculum Contract for additional information

Candidates must minimally meet requirements for admission to NKU as a graduate non-degree seeking student as well as additional requirements in order to complete a certification program in Teacher Education and be enrolled in an Option 6 program. Candidates may be enrolled in an additional or other graduate program (MA, Ed.S. etc.) if they meet the admission requirements of their selected program in addition to the Option 6 MSD program.

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1. Official transcripts from all institutions attended showing completion of at least a bachelor's degree and/or teacher certification from an accredited institution with a minimum GPA of 2.75 OR GPA of 3.00 on a 4.0 scale on the last thirty (30) hours of credit completed, including undergraduate and graduate coursework. This GPA requirement applies to both the cumulative GPA and the content area GPA.
2. Completion of GRE - Verbal with a minimum score of 150; Quantitative with a minimum score of 143; and Analytical Writing with a minimum score of 4.0 OR Completion of Praxis Core Academic Skill for Educators – Reading with a minimum of 156, Mathematics with a minimum of 150 and Writing with a minimum of 162.
3. If a certified teacher, copy of acceptable Rank III, II, or I professional teaching certificate, SOE, or out of state equivalent
4. Signed Codes of Ethics for Kentucky School Personnel, College of Education and Human Services, CEC, and NKU Graduate Honor Code
5. Signed curriculum contract for the MSD Option 6 certification and other graduate education program if appropriate
6. Offer of employment from a Kentucky School District in an MSD position. Requires completion of additional certification paperwork and mentorship agreement to meet 16 KAR 9:080. University-based alternative certification program.

### CURRICULUM CRITERIA

Forty (40) semester hours with advisor's prior approval and in accordance with the MSD program requirements to meet CEC and the Kentucky Teacher Standards - Initial Level.

### EXIT CRITERIA

Completion of all coursework with a minimum 3.00 GPA  
Mastery of Kentucky Teacher Standards as measured in EDS 588

### Certification and Praxis Exam Information

Praxis II: Core Knowledge and Severe to Profound Disabilities (P-12): Test: 5545 Passing score: 158 (current)

## Option 6 requirements

To be in an option 6 program, the candidate must be employed in a school district in a position commensurate with the option 6 certification program AND the candidate must concurrently be enrolled in an approved program of study under that option 6 program. Each option 6 candidate must consult with the graduate teacher education office and their hiring school district to determine what certification paperwork and other requirements are necessary for KYEPSB.

If a candidate is placed on CA-TP (collaborative agreement between district and MSD program director), the following occurs:

- Candidate consults with both the district and the university every year in order to renew the TP certificate.
- CA-TPs (which are to be initiated by the school district) are renewable a maximum of 2 times.
- Each renewal requires a minimum of six (6) additional hours of completed coursework since the last submission of transcript with a previous TP.
- Candidates must remain continuously enrolled at the university and initially be in courses within ninety (90) days of 1st CA-TP being entered into KYEPSB.
- Candidates must finish all coursework in not more than 3 (teaching calendar) school years. Candidates must complete KTIP during the third year (2nd renewal of CA-TP).
- Passing scores on the Praxis exam are required in order to be eligible for participation in KTIP and NKU will notify the school district when the candidate is eligible.
- Once KTIP is completed, candidate must submit a CA-1 form with other required documents to the Teacher Ed. Graduate Office (MP building)

NKU will notify EPSB if a candidate's employment in a covered position or enrollment in the alternative certification teacher program permanently ceases and the CA-TP will be withdrawn.

Candidates in the Graduate Level: Option 6 Certification Only program must complete all of the required courses for the MSD certification (EDS 551, 588; EDG 653, 665, 668, 669) as well as pre-requisite courses from the LBD certification program and a literacy course (EDS 561,570; EDG 630, 666, 662, 663, 664). Please refer to the curriculum contract for additional information about the program:

<https://inside.nku.edu/coehs/collegeaccreditation/caep/EPSBProgramSubmissions/ModerateSevereDisabilitiesInitial.html>

If a candidate who does not have a teaching certificate loses employment as a MSD teacher, he/she will no longer be able to continue in the Option 6 program.

If a candidate has a teaching certificate and loses employment as a MSD teacher, he/she will not be able to continue in the Option 6 program but will be able to continue in the traditional MSD program, through the Teacher as Leader program or the MSD Certification Only advanced teacher program.

## Mentoring

When a candidate is admitted to the Option 6 program they are assigned a PK-12 mentor teacher and university-based mentor. At the beginning of each academic year the graduate coordinator identifies potential university mentors to work with the MSD candidates. The criteria for a mentor are: 1) earned master's degree, 2) at least 10 years teaching experience, and 3) recommendation by a NKU professor.

In most cases, if a university mentor was evaluated as satisfactory during the previous academic year, and is interested in serving as a mentor again, they continue to serve. The selection of the district mentor is at the discretion of the building principal, upon agreement of the EPP graduate coordinator. When approved by the graduate coordinator, university mentors are assigned to work with an Option 6 MSD candidate. The Mentor Agreement form is linked here:

<https://inside.nku.edu/content/dam/coehs/Accreditation/EPsBProgramSubmissions/NKU%20Mentor%20Agreement%20for%20Option%206%20base%20form.pdf>

The process for completing the mentoring form is outlined below.

NKU completes the MSD candidate information at the top of the form then sends it to the school principal. The MSD candidate, school mentor, and school principal sign the form and the principal returns it to NKU. The graduate coordinator and university mentor then sign the form. A copy of the form, with all signatures completed, is sent to the candidate, school mentor, school principal, and university mentor. In addition, the completed mentor form is emailed to EPsB and the MSD candidate is entered in the alternative Option 6 route in the EPsB admission system. Simultaneously, the CA-TP is completed for the MSD candidate and also sent to EPsB.

To fulfill the mentoring agreement, the university and district mentor are each required to observe and work with the MSD candidate for 5 hours. The final 5 hours of required observation is negotiated between the university and district mentors to determine who will conduct the final hours of observation. Both mentors are required to observe the MSD candidate teach lessons and give constructive feedback to the candidate after each observation. The feedback is based on the KTS, InTASC, CEC, and KFFt standards. The mentor is asked to give feedback on the standards and also identify the MSD candidate's strengths, and areas for refinement/improvement, citing specific examples that support their findings.

While no minimum number of meetings is required, the mentors establish a baseline schedule of visits with the candidate at the beginning of each semester, and adjust the number of visits per the need of each individual candidate. The assigned university mentor is responsible for maintaining direct contact with the employing school during the mentoring year and, in turn, the district mentor is responsible for submitting summaries of communication with the candidate to the MSD program team. The MSD program coordinator is the EPP contact person for both the university and district mentors and is responsible for monitoring both mentors to ensure the candidate receives the help and support that is needed to be successful.

### **Changes to the MSD Program**

The MSD program was launched at NKU in the Spring semester of 2008. The program has a two-year course cycle. One course is offered in each semester (fall and spring) the first year, and one course is offered each semester (fall, spring, summer) the second year. The EDS 588, Professional Laboratory Experience, is completed at the end of the program, either with the final course or in the next semester.

Each time a course is taught, the instructor examines candidate performance and solicits feedback on course materials. Courses are updated with any new research-validated practices, new editions of textbooks and readings as needed. Projects and assignments are adjusted based on what candidates

need to become fully certified MSD teachers in Kentucky. To date, NKU has a 100% pass rate on the Praxis II exam for Moderate and Severe Disabilities.

In addition to course adjustments, one program change has occurred. For the 2015-2016 catalog, EDG 651 Assistive technology was changed to EDS 551 Assistive technology in the Classroom. This change was made to allow both undergraduate and graduate candidates to take the course. The undergraduate candidates who take this course are those in the Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Program (IECE). Since IECE teachers teach students with disabilities, it is important that they also have this content. Due to small enrollment numbers in the IECE program, this combined course ensures that the course is fully enrolled and both MSD candidates and IECE candidates have access to information about assistive technology.

One additional change was made. EDS 588, Professional Laboratory Experience, includes a leadership project to address Kentucky Teacher Standard #10. This project aligns to the standard and requires candidates to create, implement, and evaluate a leadership project in their school setting.