

SOUTH DAKOTA

Institutional Authorization

Western Governors University is authorized to provide its educational programs in South Dakota through a state authorization reciprocity agreement (NC-SARA). More information about NC-SARA is available on their [website](#).

Licensure Pathway

Candidates applying for a teaching license in South Dakota do so through the direct licensure pathway. Information on the different licensure pathways is available in the [licensure handbook](#). Complete details on licensure requirements in the state of South Dakota as well as information on applying using the direct licensure pathway can also be found in the [licensure handbook](#).

Educational Prerequisites

WGU's education preparation programs (initial licensure programs and MS Educational Leadership[^]) do not meet all of the educational prerequisites for professional licensure in South Dakota. To obtain a South Dakota license, applicants must complete an approved [South Dakota Indian Studies course](#). Applicants are also required to complete at least one clock hour of [suicide awareness and prevention training](#) from an approved provider. WGU programs do not satisfy the South Dakota Indian Studies course requirement or the suicide awareness and prevention training requirement. Applicants will not be issued a certificate until these requirements have been completed.

[^]Most individuals holding an initial South Dakota teaching certificate have already satisfied this requirement.

WGU's education preparation programs are designed to support licensure in South Dakota for the following licenses:

| WGU Program | License |
|--|--|
| BA Elementary Education MAT Elementary Education | Self Contained K-4th Grade and Self Contained 5th-8th Grade |
| BA Special Education and Elementary Education (Dual Licensure) | Self Contained K-4th Grade and Self Contained 5th-8th Grade; and K-12 Special Education |
| BA Special Education (Mild to Moderate) MAT Special Education | K-12 Special Education |
| BS Mathematics Education (Middle Grades) MAT Mathematics Education (Middle Grades) MA Mathematics Education (Middle Grades)* | Secondary Intermediate Math |
| BS Science Education (Middle Grades) MA Science Education (Middle Grades)* | Secondary Intermediate Science |
| BS Mathematics Education (Secondary) MAT Mathematics Education (Secondary) MA Mathematics Education (Secondary)* | Secondary Advanced Mathematics |
| BS Science Education (Secondary Biological Science) MA Science Education (Secondary Biological Science)* | Secondary Advanced Biology |
| BS Science Education (Secondary Chemistry) MA Science Education (Secondary Chemistry)* | Secondary Chemistry |
| BS Science Education (Secondary Earth Science) MA Science Education (Secondary Earth Science)* | Secondary Advanced Earth Science |
| BS Science Education (Secondary Physics) MA Science Education (Secondary Physics)* | Secondary Physics |
| MAT Science Education (Secondary) | Secondary Advanced Biology <i>or</i> Secondary Chemistry <i>or</i> Secondary Advanced Earth Science <i>or</i> Secondary Physics |
| MAT English Education (Secondary) | Secondary Intermediate English Language Arts |
| Endorsement English Language Learning (PreK-12)* MA English Language Learning (PreK-12)* | Elementary English as a New Language or Secondary English as a New Language |
| MS Educational Leadership* | K-12 Principal |

*Advanced programs are for already licensed teachers who want to add an additional teaching area or field to their licenses (or a separate license for Educational Leadership). These programs are not intended for aspiring teachers seeking initial licensure.

WGU advanced programs (except MS Educational Leadership) meet the educational prerequisites for endorsement of an existing South Dakota teacher license (note that the requirement for South Dakota Indian Studies and suicide awareness and prevention training are required for the initial South Dakota license to which the endorsement is added). Details on adding an endorsement to a South Dakota teaching license are available in the [licensure handbook](#).

To obtain a license in South Dakota, an applicant must have completed the teacher education program within five years of the date of the application. If more than five years have elapsed since the completion of the teacher education program, then the applicant must provide documentation of six semester hours in the applicant's field of study from an accredited four-year institution in the five years immediately preceding the date of the application for a license.

Consumer Complaint Information

Students can refer to [this information](#) regarding the complaint process for those attending WGU in South Dakota.

Military Information

South Dakota offers expedited issuance of teaching certificates for military personnel and spouses per [South Dakota Statute 13-42-67](#). Military personnel and spouses should also reference the military section of the FAQs on the [South Dakota DOE website](#).