The Virginia Consortium for Teacher Preparation in Special Education Adapted Curriculum: Supporting Students with Severe Disabilities and Autism (SD CONSORTIUM)

The consortium is comprised of six state approved teacher preparation programs in adapted curriculum, including George Mason University, Norfolk State University, Radford University, Virginia Commonwealth University, James Madison University, and Old Dominion University. The consortium’s primary goal is to prepare teachers across the state to be highly skilled at working with learners with severe disabilities and/or autism. The program is designed to increase the number of fully endorsed teachers by providing training to new full-time preservice personnel and to accelerate the training for those already teaching on provisional licenses.

The Consortium has been supported by grants from the Virginia Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Education. Every semester, the Consortium awards a limited number of tuition stipends to qualified applicants. The SD Consortium is made possible through the integration of distance education technologies, including videoconferencing and other supporting technologies.

Each course is offered annually according to the schedule published at https://gse.gmu.edu/special-education/adapted-curriculum-consortium/ Visit the website for more information.

The Virginia Consortium for Teacher Preparation in Vision Impairment Add-on Endorsement (VI CONSORTIUM)

Virginia Consortium for Teacher Preparation in Vision Impairment is the only academic program for preparing teachers of students with visual impairments in Virginia and is comprised of five universities: George Mason University, James Madison University, Norfolk State University, Old Dominion University, and Radford University.

Its primary goal is to prepare teachers to be highly skilled at working with students with visual impairment and blindness. Completion of the VI program meets the Virginia Department of Education’s required competencies for teachers of students with vision impairments.

Classes are offered through a combination of video conferencing, web conferencing, Blackboard and face-to-face meetings. Through video and web conferencing, students are able to experience real-time, interactive, multipoint instruction among the five universities. On-line learning through Blackboard offers students anytime, anywhere access to course content. A few courses require some face-to-face meetings, which are scheduled during the weekends or during the summer. All courses are offered in the evenings to meet the needs of those who are working full time. For more information visit https://gse.gmu.edu/special-education/vi-consortium/