

MEd Special Education

Master of Education: Special Education

- Cross Categorical Disabilities
- Autism and Developmental Disabilities
- Early Childhood Special Education

The M. Ed. Program in Special Education includes a representation of the important core knowledge in Special Education. The primary goal is to empower professionals to be thoughtful educators who use best practices when working with students with disabilities. Research and data-based decision-making are emphasized throughout the program. Graduate students will translate research into practice in their courses, and learn to analyze multiple types of assessment data. The M.Ed. Program in Special Education consists of an initial required core of courses, a concentration area corresponding to the chosen emphasis area, and a capstone or exit course block.

When graduate students are accepted into the program, their transcripts are analyzed to identify compliance with state education certification guidelines. Students who wish to be certified in the education of children with cross-categorical disabilities will be required to fulfill general certification requirements, as well as graduate coursework. Upon completion of this advanced degree, professionals will have developed an in-depth knowledge-base related to

- various learning contexts within and outside of the school setting
- the multiple influences on educational practices in schools
- the characteristics and instructional needs of learners with disabilities
- assessment strategies for monitoring instruction
- instructional best practices
- using research to inform practice in the classroom
- diversity awareness
- contexts that affect student learning
- the powerful interactions between setting events and specific learner outcomes
- a life-perspective of students with exceptional learning needs, both young children who transition into kindergarten and those transitioning into adulthood.

1) Required Foundation Courses (9 hours)		
Students are required to complete the following courses within the first 15 hours of study.		
TCH ED 6010	Examining History, Community And Social Justice In Education	3

TCH ED 6020	Teacher Action, Advocacy And Leadership	3
ED PSY 6030	Instruction, Learning And Assessment	3
2) Required Research Courses (6 hours)		
These two research courses should be taken in sequence (not together) at the end of your program since the first course prepares you with the knowledge and skills to successfully complete an Action Research project in the capstone exit course. You will design and execute a piece of original practitioner research and present your findings in a public forum.		
TCH ED 6909	Teacher Action Research I	3
TCH ED 6910	Teacher Action Research Capstone ¹	3
3) 9-hour Concentration Choices		
A. Special Education Concentration I: 9 hours		
ED PSY 6545	Consultation In Schools And Related Settings	3
SPEC ED 6325	Advanced Studies in Classroom & Behavior Management ²	3
or SPEC ED 6437	Applied Behavior Analysis: Functional Assessment and	
SPEC ED 6415	The Law And Special Education	3
B. Special Education Concentration II Electives 9 hours		
Students have the option of enrolling in a 3 credit hour course from either the Early Childhood Special Education or Autism Studies concentrations, or enrolling in an additional course in the Cross-Categorical concentration in order to meet the 9 credit hour course requirement for Concentration II.		
i. Cross Categorical Disabilities Concentration II: 6 +3 hours from i, ii, or iii.		
CHOOSE 2 + 1 from this or another designated Concentration II area		
SPEC ED 6345	Characteristics and Education of Students with High-Incidence	3
SPEC ED 6346	Reading Instruction and Intervention in Special Education	3
SPEC ED 6443	Characteristics and Education of Students with Learning	3
SPEC ED 6450	Characteristics and Education of Students with	3
ED PSY 6542	Social-Emotional and Behavior Interventions	3
ii. Autism and Developmental Disabilities Concentration II (9 hours)		
SPEC ED 6430	Characteristics and Education of Individuals with Low-	3

SPEC ED 6610	Foundations of Autism Spectrum Disorder: Research to	3
SPEC ED 6620	Assessment and Interventions for Children and Youth with	3
iii. Early Childhood Special Education Concentration II (9 hours)		
SPEC ED 6372	Screening And Diagnosis Of Developmental Delays: Birth To 5	3
SPEC ED 6462	Introduction To Early Childhood Special Education	3
SPEC ED 6463	Curriculum, Methods, And Materials For Early Childhood	3

¹ This course is not offered in summer sessions.

² SPEC ED 6437 is required for the Autism concentration and certificate and the Applied Behavior Analysis certificate.

Total hours: minimum 33 credit hours

Sign-offs from other departments affected by this proposal

None

Rationale	Change in M.Ed. Spec Ed that allows choice of Spec Ed 6325 or a new course: Spec Ed 6437; the latter provides focus on Applied Behavior Analysis, a set of methods designed for behavior evaluation and intervention implementation
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