

Master of Education in Special Education

General Emphasis

The *Master of Education* degree program provides a range of opportunities for practicing teachers and other educators to develop their unique skills in order to increase teachers' impact on students. This degree has been developed to build a solid foundation of knowledge, skills, and understanding for *dedicated experienced professionals*. This program is founded on a deep respect for practicing educators and is committed to strengthening and renewing their teaching through a process of increasing knowledge and professional capacity, self-evaluation and reflection on their own practice. We seek to foster teachers who care deeply about students, create appropriate learning environments, and develop their own skills in order to nurture the greatest human potential in each learner. The graduate of this program will have a deep commitment to the professional education community, a focused association with the school community and a strong connection to educational research.

Program Goals

1. Enhance the depth of knowledge relating to the teaching and learning processes.
2. Further develop the tools of inquiry and knowledge of research methods necessary to improve their practice throughout their career.
3. Critically examine professional practice from the standpoint of effectiveness with all students.
4. Refine and develop capacity for critical thinking and investigation.
5. Construct dynamic processes and resources that promote the development of quality learning programs for all learners.
6. Develop interpersonal qualities that engage a wide range of learners and personally connect to individual students.
7. Examine and refine professional ethics so as to influence the community toward social justice and increased equity for all students.
8. Increase professional resilience and proficiency in teaching to become an accomplished teacher.

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 teachers who use best practice 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 multiple courses and learn to analyze multiple types of assessment data.

When graduate students are accepted into the program they are required to have their transcripts analyzed for state certification discrepancies. Students who wish to be certified in 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 practice
- using research to direct practice in the classroom
- diversity
- contexts that affect student learning
- the powerful interactions between setting events and specific learner outcomes
- a life-perspective of students with exceptional learning needs that addresses the need to successfully meet the needs of young children who transition into kindergarten as well as preparing older students for their transition into adulthood.

The Master of Education in Special Education

1) Required Core (9 hours)

Students are required to complete the following courses within the first 15 hours of study.

- TCH ED 6010** Examining History, Community & Social Justice in Education
- TCH ED 6020** Teacher Action, Advocacy & Leadership (3)
- TCH ED/ED PSY 6030** Instruction, Learning & Assessment (3)

2) Required Research Course (3 hours)

- ED REM 6040** Educational Research for Teachers (3)

3) Required Core Special Education Concentration (9 hours)

- SPEC ED 6325** Advanced Behavior Management (3)
- SPEC ED 6415** The Law & Special Education (3)
- ED PSY 6545** Consultation in Schools and Other Settings (3)

4) Special Education Concentration Area Courses (9 hours):

Cross Categorical Disabilities (6 hours) Students have the option of enrolling in a 3 credit hour course from either Early Childhood Special Education concentration,

Autism Studies concentration or an additional Cross Categorical concentration course in order to meet the 9 hour requirement

- SPEC ED 6437** Individual and Schoolwide Systems of Positive Behavior Support (3)
- SPEC ED 6345** Characteristics and Education of Students with High-Incidence Disabilities (3)
- SPEC ED 6346** Reading Instruction and Intervention in Special Education (3)
- SPEC ED 6443** Characteristics and Education of Students with Learning Disabilities (3)
- SPEC ED 6450** Characteristics and Education of Students with Emotional/Behavior Disorders (3)

Autism and Developmental Disabilities (9 hours)

- SPEC ED 6430** Characteristics and Education of Students with Low-Incidence Disabilities (3)
- SPEC ED 6610** Foundations of Autism Spectrum Disorder: Research to Practice (3)
- SPEC ED 6620** Assessment and Interventions for Children and Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder (3)

Early Childhood Special Education (9 hours)

- SPEC ED 6462** Introduction to Early Childhood Special Education (3)
- SPEC ED 6463** Curriculum, Methods, and Materials for Early Childhood Special Education (3)
- SPEC ED 6372** Screening and Diagnosis of Developmental Delays: Birth to 5 Years (3)

5) Capstone Course (3 hours)

Students must enroll in the capstone course during their last semester.

- TCH ED 6910** Teacher Action Research Capstone (3)

Total hours: Minimum 33 credit hours

SPECIAL EDUCATION COURSES
 SPRING 10 - FALL 14

	Spring 10	Summer 10	Fall 10	Spring 11	Summer 11	Fall 11	Spring 12	Summer 12	Fall 12	Spring 13	Summer 13	Fall 13	Spring 14	Summer 14	Fall 14
TCH ED 6010	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
TCH ED 6020	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
TCH ED/ED PSY 6030	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
ED REM 6040	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
TCH ED 6910	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
ED PSY 6545			X			X			X			X			X
SPEC ED 6325	X		X	X		X	X		X	X		X	X		X
SPEC ED 6345	X		X	X		X	X		X	X		X	X		X
SPEC ED 6346	X		X	X		X	X		X	X		X	X		X
SPEC ED 6372			X			X			X			X			X
SPEC ED 6412	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SPEC ED 6415	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SPEC ED 6430	X		X	X		X	X		X	X		X	X		X
SPEC ED 6437		X	X			X		X	X		X	X		X	X
SPEC ED 6443	X	X		X	X		X	X		X	X		X	X	
SPEC ED 6450		X			X			X			X			X	
SPEC ED 6462	X		X			X			X			X			X
SPEC ED 6463		X		X			X			X			X		
SPEC ED 6610		X	X			X			X			X			X
SPEC ED 6620	X	X		X			X			X			X		

NOTE: SPEC ED 6412 not for credit in Special Education Master's Degree