Special Education  (Online option available)

Level of Specialization
- ELEMENTARY
- SECONDARY

Program Purposes
This program is designed for certified teachers or candidates who are eligible for certification to prepare for special education positions.

The area of concentration is Special Education Teachers of Students With Disabilities in Individualized General Education Programs.

The Master of Education Special Education offers an online option with all courses offered at least once per year online. The Professional Core courses can be completed online or on campus. All Special Education courses are offered online.

Certification
This program is intended to lead to certification as a generic special educator of students.

Generic 1-8
Generic 6-12

Program Objectives
Graduates of the program will be able to:
- Diagnose educational problems
- Prescribe educational programs to meet the needs of individual students
- Teach students with special needs
- Serve as an inclusion resource teacher with general education classroom teachers
- Evaluate current research in the field of special education, apply new approaches to the classroom and contribute new information and ideas to the field

Special Admission Criteria
Applicants to this program must hold or be eligible for certification as a public school teacher.

Program Description (39-42 credits)

Professional Education Core (9 credits)
EDUC 603 Principles and Practices of Research
EDUC 606 Developmental Theory and Experiential Growth
EDUC 640 Curriculum Theory, Design and Analysis

Special Education Core (24 credits)
SPED 561 Characteristics of Exceptional Children
SPED 562 Introduction to the Education of Exceptional Children
SPED 601 Assessment, Diagnosis and Evaluation of Exceptional Children
SPED 602 Instructional Content and Practices for Exceptional Children
SPED 603 Planning and Managing the Teaching and Learning Environment
SPED 604 Managing Student Behavior and Social Interaction Skills
SPED 605 Communication and Collaborative Partnerships in Special Education Programs
SPED 691 Seminar in Special Education

Electives (3-6 credits)

Capstone (3 credits)
EDUC 700 Master's Research Paper or Project

Total credit hours: 39-42

Special Degree Requirements

Study Plan
A study plan, which must be completed at the beginning of the program at the interview with the program coordinator, is required for all students in special education. This is expected to occur prior to registering for the first course. Once approved, changes in the study plan require the permission of the advisor and the program coordinator.

Admission to Candidacy
Admission to candidacy occurs when you have completed a minimum of 15 credits and a maximum of 18 credits. You must have completed the three Professional Core courses (EDUC 603, EDUC 606 and EDUC 640) as part of this admission process. Six credits within the Special Education Core must have also been completed. A cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required, as well as the approval of the advisor and two other faculty members who have taught you. Transfer courses are not counted toward the 15-18 credits unless they are accepted as equivalent courses, and then the grades are not calculated in the GPA. Your advisor and the program coordinator have the right to
require that you remediate deficiencies even if that requires extra courses, or to require that you be disenrolled from the program based on your aptitude and professional growth potential. If disenrolled, you have the right to appeal to the Educational Professions Graduate Leadership Team. If the appeal is denied, you may reapply to the program after 1 year.

**Demonstration of Competencies**

In addition to the degree candidacy conditions set forth in the Master of Education section of this catalog, candidates for a Master of Education degree in special education must fulfill the Praxis II Special Education licensure requirements for the state of Maryland. Additionally, candidates must demonstrate research-based technological competencies appropriate to the instruction of exceptional individuals.

**Transfer and Proficiency Credit**

If a candidate has successfully completed (grade B or better) courses at another accredited institution, the candidate may apply for transfer credit for these courses for a total of up to 9 credits. If, upon faculty assessment, the courses are deemed essentially comparable to courses in this program, the candidate will be awarded credit toward completion of the degree. All courses considered for transfer credit must meet the Graduate transfer credit policy requirements, including the six-year limit.

Proficiency by examination in SPED 561 or SPED 562, both considered introductory courses, is available for teachers who have passed the PRAXIS II: Special Education national assessment that meets licensure requirements for the State of Maryland.

Students may not exceed a combined total of 9 credits of transfer and credit by exam.