

## Special Education

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**Degree:** Master of Special Education  
**Major:** Special Education  
**Emphasis:** Early Childhood  
General

The Department of Educational Studies offers a Master of Special Education degree with two emphasis areas: Early Childhood and General. The Early Childhood emphasis is a non-thesis program; the coursework will not satisfy state requirements for a license in Special Education. The General emphasis provides two options: The first option comprises 36 semester hours of coursework and a written comprehensive examination. The second option comprises 36 semester hours including 30 hours of coursework and a thesis or project of six hours. General and specific admission requirements, guidelines for preparing degree plans, and other policies are the same as those for the Master of Education degree (see requirements in the Education section of the Graduate Catalog).

The Master of Special Education degree is designed to prepare professionals who have an undergraduate special education background. If the student is not licensed in special education, he or she will need to complete the alternative licensure coursework in Special Education concurrently with master's degree coursework or take the following leveling courses (which will not count toward his or her master's degree) prior to enrolling in graduate courses: SPED 300, 330, 338, 411, 412, 413, 445, and 447 (students who are licensed in elementary or secondary education will not have to take SPED 445 and 447). Students seeking only licensure in special education will take the 30-hour licensure program as described in the Undergraduate Catalog. The licensure program includes the leveling courses stated above and requires a minimum of 30 semester hours.

### Core Requirements for emphasis in Early Childhood and General

EDF	500	Methods of Documentary Research.....	3
EDF	515	Theories of Learning and Motivation.....	3
EDF	530	Assessment.....	3
SPED	543	Communication and Collaborative Methods.....	3
		Total Core Hours.....	12

### Early Childhood Emphasis

#### Required Courses

SPED	508	Foundations of Early Childhood Special Education.....	3
SPED	512	Language and Learning.....	3
SPED	515	Positive Supports for Learning.....	3
SPED	523	Assessment and Programming for Early Childhood Special Education.....	3
SPED	525	Early Childhood Special Education Program Evaluation.....	3

#### Electives

Choose nine hours from the following:

BLED	573	Early Childhood Bilingualism.....	3
CDIS	550	Augmentative and Alternative Communication.....	2
FCS	515	Problems in the Family.....	3
RED	570	Emergent Literacy.....	3
SPED	502	Child Growth, Development, and Learning.....	1

**General Emphasis****Required Courses**

SPED 503	Special Education Law.....	3
SPED 505	Severe and Profound Disabilities: Theory to Practice, <b>or</b>	
SPED 509	Gifted: Theory to Practice.....	3
SPED 534	Mental Retardation: Theory to Practice .....	3
SPED 540	Learning Disabilities: Theory to Practice .....	3
SPED 548	Behavior Disorders: Theory to Practice.....	3

**Electives****9 hours of electives approved by the student's graduate advisor.**

Note: To meet licensure requirements, the student must have a concentration of 24 hours in a subject matter area that qualifies for an endorsement for a teaching license (this requirement is usually met within the undergraduate degree)