

# Special Education (MA)

The Department of Special Education offers master's degrees in two areas of specialization: autism and developmental disabilities; and early childhood special education. Graduate study prepares students for leadership roles in fields that serve children, youth, adults with disabilities, and their families. Students may also complete coursework to fulfill requirements for certification as a behavior analyst. Although there is considerable overlap between degree and certification requirements, additional courses beyond the degree plan are usually necessary.

The master's degree prepares students to provide behavior analysis, or special education services to individuals with disabilities and their families. Through coursework and field-based experiences, students acquire knowledge and skills in the areas of disabilities, advocacy, collaboration, instruction and assessment, and professional standards of legal and ethical practice, and in the socio-cultural, linguistic, economic, and technological contexts in which services are provided.

## Areas of Specialization

- **Autism and developmental disabilities** provides opportunities for students to develop skills in designing, implementing, and evaluating educational interventions for people with autism and developmental disabilities.
- **Early childhood special education** focuses on the development of early intervention programs for children from birth through six years of age, reflecting a family-centered philosophy and application of the most recent theoretical concepts in natural and inclusive settings.

## Graduate Handbook

Graduate handbook information is updated and maintained by each program. Graduate handbooks are available within each program's office and [online](#). Please contact the program with concerns or questions.

## Total Hours Required: 36

## Requirements

The Master of Arts degree is offered in three master's concentrations.

| Code                                    | Title  | Hours     |
|-----------------------------------------|--------|-----------|
| <b>Major</b>                            |        |           |
| Hours chosen from: Research coursework  |        | 6         |
| SED 698                                 | Thesis | 6         |
| Additional Coursework                   |        | 24        |
| <u>Graduate Education Requirements</u>  |        |           |
| <u>Graduate University Requirements</u> |        |           |
| <b>Total Hours</b>                      |        | <b>36</b> |

## Additional Requirements and Policies

- The general requirements for the master's degree are set at a minimum standard.
- Information about additional requirements is available from the graduate advisor or coordinator.