

MASTER OF EDUCATION IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Master of Education in Special Education is one of the most versatile graduate degrees offered at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. The Special Education program offers students a broad understanding within the theoretical and practical constructs which support practices for children with special needs. The program emphasizes practical application of knowledge gained while encouraging current research analysis. The program goal is intended for graduates to develop the skills to engage in issues of advocacy.

The Special Education professional will be afforded various opportunities to work with students, their families, other professionals and the community to enable students with special needs to become productive members of society. Therefore, this program focuses on developing the skills and thought processes of both certified and non-certified professionals who work with the spectrum of children with special needs.

Program Details

The Master of Education in Special Education requires a minimum of thirty six (36) hours of graduate coursework. The degree affords the student a choice of three specialization areas: Assessment (Educational Diagnostician Certification), Instructional Specialist, and an Autism/Emotional Behavioral Disorder focus. A “certificate only” plan is also available for professional educators who have a Master’s Degree in special education or a closely related field and wish to seek TEA certification as an Educational Diagnostician. The capstone experience for the Master of Education in Special Education is the completion of one of two options: **a Graduate Research Project in their EDSE 5301 course, or Thesis (which is an additional 6 hour requirement.** Additional coursework may be required depending on the option selected. All students, regardless of the capstone experience option chosen, will develop an e-portfolio that documents content proficiency. Candidates seeking certification as an Educational Diagnostician must request an application from the Educator Preparation Program during their first semester of graduate studies.

Prerequisites

Students who apply to the Masters of Education in Special Education program should have a broad base in one or more of the following areas:

- Special Education
- Education
- Child Growth and Development
- Curriculum and Instruction

Course Load

Normal course loads consist of 6-9 hours per semester with a minimum grade of “B” required for all courses. Only grades of “A” or “B” will be accepted toward this degree. Candidates for the Master of Education degree in Special Education must earn a minimum of 36 semester credit hours and maintain a minimum overall GPA of 3.0. Students must submit a comprehensive portfolio that follows the given template **during the semester of the completion of** coursework, as part of the requirements for graduation with the Master of Education degree in Special Education.

Instructional Specialist Track

Required Coursework (24 hours)

EDSE 5321	Accommodating Diverse Populations in the Classroom	3 credit hours
EDSE 5326	Behavior Aspects of Classroom Organization & Mgt	3 credit hours
EDSE 5325	Development and Disability	3 credit hours
EDSE 5322	Educational Testing and Measurement	3 credit hours
EDSE 5324	Designing Instructional & Behavioral Programs for Spec Educ	3 credit hours
EDSE 5327	Special Populations: Legislation, Litigation, & Advocacy	3 credit hours
EDSE 5328	Practicum in Special Education (Instructional &/or AU-ED)	3 credit hours
EDSE 5301	Research in Special Education (Fall/Spring only)	3 credit hours

Additional Coursework (12 hours)

The program allows students to customize their electives in the specialty/support fields listed below to achieve their academic/career endeavors. Additional coursework may include Thesis hours.

- Early Childhood
- Counseling
- Educational Administration
- Literacy
- Bilingual/English as a Second Language

Assessment Focus (Educational Diagnostician)

Required Coursework (27 hours)

EDSE 5322	Educ Testing and Measurement of Exceptional Learner	3 credit hours
EDSE 5324	Designing Instructional & Behavioral Programs for Spec Educ	3 credit hours
EDSE 5325	Development and Disability	3 credit hours
EDSE 5327	Special Populations: Legislation, Litigation, & Advocacy	3 credit hours
EDSE 5351	Advanced Behavior Analysis and Interventions	3 credit hours
EDSE 5374	Educational & Psychological Measurement & Evaluation	3 credit hours
EDSE 5375	Advanced Practicum in SPED Assessment (Intern I)	3 credit hours
EDSE 5376	Individual Psychological & Educational Assessment (Intern II)	3 credit hours
EDSE 5301	Research in Special Education (Fall/Spring only)	3 credit hours

Additional Coursework (9 hours)

The program allows students to customize their electives in the specialty/support fields listed below to achieve their academic/career endeavors. Additional coursework may include Thesis hours.

- Bilingual/English as a Second Language
- Early Childhood
- Counseling
- Educational Administration

Autism/Emotional Behavior Disorder Focus

Required Coursework (36 hours)

EDSE 5309	Special Education: Special Problems (Professional Collaboration)	3 credit hours
EDSE 5322	Educ Testing and Measurement of Exceptional Learner	3 credit hours
EDSE 5324	Designing Instructional & Behavioral Programs for Spec Educ	3 credit hours
EDSE 5325	Development and Disability	3 credit hours
EDSE 5326	Behavioral Aspects of Classroom Org and Mgmt	3 credit hours
EDSE 5327	Special Populations: Legislation, Litigation, & Advocacy	3 credit hours
EDSE 5328	Practicum in Special Education (AU/ED Placement)	3 credit hours
EDSE 5353	Autism Spectrum Disorders and Related Issues	3 credit hours
EDSE 5355	Assessment & Educational Procedures for Low Incident Pops	3 credit hours
EDSE 5354	Emotional Disorders and Related Issues	3 credit hours
EDSE 5351	Advanced Behavior Analysis and Interventions	3 credit hours
EDSE 5301	Research in Special Education	3 credit hours

Educational Diagnostician Certificate

Candidates seeking only Educational Diagnostician Certification must earn a minimum of 24 semester credit hours as follows:

Required Coursework (24 hours)

EDSE 5322	Educ Testing and Measurement of Exceptional Learner	3 credit hours
EDSE 5324	Designing Instructional & Behavioral Programs for Spec Educ	3 credit hours
EDSE 5325	Development and Disability	3 credit hours
EDSE 5327	Special Populations: Legislation, Litigation, & Advocacy	3 credit hours
EDSE 5351	Advanced Behavior Analysis and Interventions	3 credit hours
EDSE 5374	Educational & Psychological Measurement & Evaluation	3 credit hours
EDSE 5375	Advanced Practicum in SPED Assessment (Intern I)	3 credit hours
EDSE 5376	Individual Psychological & Educational Assessment (Intern II)	3 credit hours