

Master of Education in Special Education

Upon offer of admission, the following will be required: Successful passage of FBI criminal background check

Admission Requirements

The Master of Education (M.Ed.) is designed for those who do not have a previous degree in education. This degree will have a pedagogical focus to build a foundation for the art and science of teaching.

1. A bachelor's degree.
2. A cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 2.75 for all undergraduate work (based on A = 4.00).
3. Satisfy the School of Graduate Studies' English Language Proficiency requirements as published in the graduate catalog.

Admission Process

1. Complete the School of Graduate Studies' online application.
2. Submit the application fee of \$35.
3. Three Letters of Recommendation are required: one from an employment supervisor or administrator, one from a professional colleague or university professor, and one from a professional of your choosing.
4. Request one official copy of all academic transcripts from all colleges and universities you have attempted credit at, including undergraduate and graduate course work.
5. One Personal Statement, which will include the questions listed below specific to special education, will be required on the master's application.

Personal Statement

The length of each response should be 1-2 pages double-spaced. The personal statement is scored for depth of discussion, authenticity, organization, and mechanics.

Respond to the four questions below:

1. Explain how your experiences/interests reflect your capacity for the specialization area you are applying for specifically (i.e., ASD, EBD, EI/ECSE, General, ID, LD, SES, and BVI).
2. Identify a behavioral or learning need with an individual with whom you know professionally or personally and describe your approach to managing the individual's specific need.
3. Graduate school may be challenging due to competing demands for your time. Please address how you will navigate these challenges by utilizing your strengths.
4. In this master's program, you will receive constructive feedback to develop and/or enhance your skills. Explain how you have perceived and managed this type of feedback in your past experiences.

Accelerated Bachelors/Master's (ABM) Admission

The Accelerated Bachelors/Master's (ABM) 4+1 program allows exceptional undergraduate students at UND an opportunity to complete the requirements for both the bachelor's and master's degrees at an accelerated pace. All requirements for both degrees must be met, and students may double count up to 12 graduate-level credits toward the requirements for both their bachelor's and master's degree requirements. ABM students must obtain their master's degree within 12 months of completing the bachelor's degree.

The M.Ed. in Special Education offers two options for the ABM program:

1. B.S.Ed. Early Childhood Education with a minor in Special Education/M.Ed. in Special Education with Specialization in Early Childhood Education.
2. B.G.S. with a major in General Studies/M.Ed. in Special Education with a Specialization in Special Education Strategist. (No previously earned credits are required for the M.Ed. in SPED 4+1 option.)

ABM Admission Requirements

1. Students interested in the accelerated program will follow the admission process listed above for the M.Ed.
2. In addition to these requirements, students will need to submit an Accelerated/Combined Program of Study as part of the admission process.

Specialization Areas

The M.Ed. in Special Education program offers eight specialization options:

- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Blind/Visual Impairment (BVI)
- Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE)
- Emotional Behavioral Disorders (EBD)
- Intellectual Disabilities (ID)
- Learning Disabilities (LD)
- Special Education Strategist (SES)
- General Special Education

Degree Requirements

Students seeking the Master of Education degree at the University of North Dakota must satisfy all general requirements set forth by the School of Graduate Studies as well as particular requirements set forth by the Special Education Program.

1. A minimum of 31 to 41 credits at or above the 500 level is required for the degree. Additional credits may be needed for teacher licensure.
2. A maximum of nine graduate special education or related one-fourth of the credit hours may be transferred from another institution.
3. Two credits of SPED 995 Scholarly Project or four credits of T&L 998 Thesis.
4. Two credits of Internship; either general special education or aligned to Special Education Core Coursework (excluding students in the area of ABA specialization).
5. A minimum of 21 to 25 credits of special education coursework (depending on optional specialization area).
6. Choose six credits of pedagogical coursework.
7. Elective courses available for additional credits that may be required for your state's teacher licensure requirements.

Code	Title	Credits
Pedagogical Coursework		
SPED 590	Special Topics in Special Education (Science of Literacy)	3
T&L 522 or SPED 514	Mathematics in the Elementary School or Intervention Strategies with Infants and Toddlers	3
Core Coursework		
SPED 521	IEP and the Transition Process	3
SPED 525	Legal/Ethical Aspects in Special Education	3
SPED 578	Behavior Management	3
SPED 995	Scholarly Project	2
Specialization Specific Courses:		
Foundational Course		
Methods Course		
Assessment Course		
Universal Supports for Learning Course		

Internship

Electives/Specialization Courses

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

The ASD specialization area focuses on children, adolescents, and adults with ASD and addresses several aspects of ASD including characteristics, assessment, methods/strategies, inter-agency collaboration/support, and application in a field setting. This specialization requires 31 credits.

Code	Title	Credits
Special Education Core		17
Foundational Course:		
SPED 560	ASD: Foundations and Brain Based Differences	3
Methods Course:		
SPED 561	Methods for Autism Spectrum Disorder	3
Assessment Course:		
SPED 567	Assessment in Autism Spectrum Disorder	3
Universal Supports for Learning Course:		
SPED 552	Inclusive Methods	3
Internship:		
SPED 583	Internship: Autism Spectrum Disorder	2

Blind/Visual Impairment (B/VI)

The BVI specialization area focuses on children and adolescents who are visually impaired or blind and addresses several aspects of BVI including characteristics, assessment, braille code, methods/strategies, orientation/mobility, and application in a field setting. This specialization requires 38 credits.

Code	Title	Credits
Special Education Core		17
Foundational Courses:		
SPED 500	Introduction to Visual Impairment	3
SPED 501	Diseases and Function of the Eye	2
Methods Course:		
SPED 504	Communication Media and Methods/Visual Impairment	3
Assessment Course:		
SPED 505	Low Vision Assessment and Remediation	3
Universal Supports for Learning Courses:		
SPED 502	Braille Reading and Writing	2
SPED 503	Orientation and Mobility/Visual Impairment	2
Internship:		
SPED 585	Internship: Visual Impairment	2
Additional Required Courses:		
SPED 530	Braille Code 1	2
SPED 531	Braille Code 2	2

Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE)

The EI/ECSE specialization area focuses on children from birth to age eight and addresses various disabilities, primarily developmental in nature, and addresses several aspects of EI/ECSE including characteristics, assessment, methods/strategies, all forms of development, (e.g., language, physical), and application in a field setting. This specialization requires 34 credits.

Code	Title	Credits
Special Education Core		17
Foundational Course:		
SPED 510	Introduction to Early Childhood Special Education	3
Methods Course:		
SPED 512	Methods and Materials for Preschool Children with Special Needs	3

Assessment Course:

SPED 511	Identification and Assessment of Young Children with Special Needs	3
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Universal Supports for Learning Course:

SPED 516	Collaborative Authentic Assessment in Early Intervention	3
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Partnering with Families

SPED 514	Intervention Strategies with Infants and Toddlers	3
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Internship:

SPED 589	Internship: Early Childhood Special Education	2
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Emotional Behavior Disorders (EBD)

The EBD specialization area focuses on children and adolescents with both emotional and behavior disorders and addresses several aspects of EBD including characteristics, assessment, behavior and academic methods/strategies, and application in a field setting. This specialization requires 31 credits.

Code	Title	Credits
Special Education Core		17
Foundational Course:		
SPED 550	Foundations of Special Education with Emphasis in ASD, EBD, ID, and LD	3

Methods Course:

SPED 555	Advanced Methods: Emotional Behavioral Disorders	3
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Assessment Course:

SPED 551	Advanced Assessment in Special Education	3
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Universal Supports for Learning Course:

SPED 552	Inclusive Methods	3
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Internship:

SPED 586	Internship: Emotional Behavioral Disorders	2
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Intellectual Disabilities (ID)

The ID specialization area focuses on children and adolescents with intellectual disabilities and addresses several aspects of ID including characteristics, assessment, methods/strategies, and application in a field setting. This specialization requires 31 credits.

Code	Title	Credits
Special Education Core		17
Foundational Course:		
SPED 550	Foundations of Special Education with Emphasis in ASD, EBD, ID, and LD	3

Methods Course:

SPED 556	Advanced Methods: Intellectual Disabilities	3
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Assessment Course:

SPED 551	Advanced Assessment in Special Education	3
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Universal Supports for Learning Course:

SPED 552	Inclusive Methods	3
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Internship:

SPED 587	Internship: Intellectual Disabilities	2
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Learning Disabilities (LD)

The LD specialization area focuses on children and adolescents with learning problems that are not due to developmental, emotional, or cognitive disabilities and addresses several aspects of LD including characteristics, assessment, methods/strategies, and application in a field setting. This specialization requires 31 credits.

Code	Title	Credits
Special Education Core		17
Foundational Course:		

SPED 550	Foundations of Special Education with Emphasis in ASD, EBD, ID, and LD	3	SPED 567	Assessment in Autism Spectrum Disorder	3
Methods Course:			Universal Supports for Learning Coursework (select one of the following):		
SPED 554	Advanced Methods: Learning Disabilities	3	SPED 502	Braille Reading and Writing	2
Assessment Course:			SPED 503	Orientation and Mobility/Visual Impairment	2
SPED 551	Advanced Assessment in Special Education	3	SPED 516	Collaborative Authentic Assessment in Early Intervention	3
Universal Supports for Learning Course:			SPED 552	Inclusive Methods	3
SPED 552	Inclusive Methods	3	Internship		2
Internship:			Electives		
SPED 588	Internship: Learning Disabilities	2			

Special Education Strategist (SES)

The SES specialization area is a cross-categorical area that encompasses all of the courses in the specialization areas of ID, EBD, and LD. This specialization requires 41 credits.

Code	Title	Credits
Special Education Core		17
Foundational Course:		
SPED 550	Foundations of Special Education with Emphasis in ASD, EBD, ID, and LD	3
Methods Courses:		
SPED 554	Advanced Methods: Learning Disabilities	3
SPED 555	Advanced Methods: Emotional Behavioral Disorders	3
SPED 556	Advanced Methods: Intellectual Disabilities	3
Assessment Course:		
SPED 551	Advanced Assessment in Special Education	3
Universal Supports for Learning Course:		
SPED 552	Inclusive Methods	3
Internship:		
SPED 586	Internship: Emotional Behavioral Disorders	2
SPED 587	Internship: Intellectual Disabilities	2
SPED 588	Internship: Learning Disabilities	2

General Special Education

The general specialization area is a “design your own program” option. Students can choose courses from all of the courses offered by the special education program.

Code	Title	Credits
Special Education Core		17
Foundational Coursework (select one of the following):		
SPED 500	Introduction to Visual Impairment	3
SPED 501	Diseases and Function of the Eye	2
SPED 510	Introduction to Early Childhood Special Education	3
SPED 550	Foundations of Special Education with Emphasis in ASD, EBD, ID, and LD	3
SPED 560	ASD: Foundations and Brain Based Differences	3
Methods Coursework (select one of the following):		
SPED 504	Communication Media and Methods/Visual Impairment	3
SPED 512	Methods and Materials for Preschool Children with Special Needs	3
SPED 554	Advanced Methods: Learning Disabilities	3
SPED 555	Advanced Methods: Emotional Behavioral Disorders	3
SPED 556	Advanced Methods: Intellectual Disabilities	3
SPED 561	Methods for Autism Spectrum Disorder	3
SPED 566	Autism Spectrum Disorder: Intensive Early Intervention	3
Assessment Coursework (select one of the following):		
SPED 505	Low Vision Assessment and Remediation	3
SPED 511	Identification and Assessment of Young Children with Special Needs	3
SPED 551	Advanced Assessment in Special Education	3