Special Education
M.A. Program

Program Structure

- The M.A. program in Special Education requires a minimum of 36 quarter units of graduate or upper-division undergraduate work in the major subject or some other subjects deemed relevant by the program faculty.
- Students in the MA program have two options:
  - Plan I (Thesis) - Students in the Plan I option are required to complete a minimum of 36 units upper-division and graduate units, and at least 24 of these units must be in graduate courses. A maximum of 12 units can be in graduate research or thesis (courses numbered 297 or 299).
  - Plan II (Comprehensive examination) - Students in Plan II are required to complete a minimum of 36 units upper-division and graduate units. At least 18 of the 36 must be in graduate courses, and none in graduate research for thesis (courses numbered 297 or 299). Students opting for Plan II are required to take the comprehensive written exam once their course work is completed.
- M.A. students can complete the program in about two years.
- The MA program is a research program in which coursework can focus on high- or low-incidence disabilities.
- Main research area of this program include learning disabilities, developmental disabilities and autism, and multicultural special education.
- Classes are offered in the late afternoon and evening to accommodate working professionals.

Curriculum

Required courses

- EDUC 212 Research Methods

Elective courses

Must choose two of the following courses:

- EDUC 200 Human Differences
- EDUC 246J Contemporary Issues and Trends in Special Education
- EDUC 246M Multicultural Special Education

Must take courses from the following group according to their individualized program plan. Additional courses may also be selected from Areas I and II, below:

- EDUC 219 Classroom and School Assessment
- EDUC 242A Educational Psychological Measurement & Evaluation
- EDUC 246N Children at Risk
- EDUC 246P Law, Policy & Administration
- EDUC 246R History of Special Education
- EDUC 262 Achievement Motivation
Must take at least one course from Area I and Area II

**Area I: Behavior Disorder, Autism, Severe Cognitive Disabilities**
- EDUC 211B Social Development
- EDUC 239 Developmental Psychopathology
- EDUC 246E Asperger Syndrome
- EDUC 246K Autism Spectrum Disorders
- EDUC 246L Behavioral Phenotypes
- EDUC 255A Principles of Social Behavioral Intervention
- EDUC 255C Child Behavior Therapy

**Area II: Mild Cognitive Disabilities, Learning Disabilities**
- EDUC 211A Cognitive Development
- EDUC 243 Student Metacognition and Self-regulated Learning
- EDUC 246I Learning Disabilities
- EDUC 246S Sources & Treatments of the Reading Difficulties of Students with Disabilities
- EDUC 255A Principles of Social Behavior Intervention
- EDUC 255B Principles of Academic Behavioral Intervention
- EDUC 256 Advanced Seminar in Learning Disabilities
- EDUC 270 Reading Development & Intervention

**Exam Preparation and Research Courses**
- EDUC 290 Directed Studies
- EDUC 291 Individual Studies in Coordinated Areas
- EDUC 297 Directed Research
- EDUC 299 Research Thesis or Dissertation