

# SPECIAL EDUCATION, EDM

*for the degree of Master of Education in Special Education*

The Department of Special Education offers several master's program areas of emphasis and licensure: Infancy and Early Childhood Special Education, Learning and Behavior Specialist I (LBS-I), and Learning and Behavior Specialist II (LBS-II).

- LBS-I prepares teachers for their initial teaching licensure.
- LBS-II is available for practicing teachers and other professionals interested in graduate studies to develop more specialized expertise and receive an endorsement as a "multiple disabilities specialist."
- ECSE is available for practicing teachers and other professionals interested in graduate studies to develop more specialized expertise. There is also a program option that allows students to receive licensure in early childhood education and a letter of approval in ECSE.
- Several of these programs can be completed on a full or part-time basis. In most cases, full-time students take two years to complete their program of studies.

## Admission

Applicants must submit a complete application for admission, including transcripts of all previous undergraduate and graduate work and an academic statement of purpose. The applicant also must arrange to have three letters of reference submitted. A 3.0 grade point average (A = 4.0) for the last two years of the undergraduate program and for any previous graduate work is a minimum requirement for admission. In addition to the above items, international students must submit a test that shows they meet minimum English proficiency requirements set by the Graduate College, available here (<https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/instructions/04c/>).

## Off-Campus Program

The Department of Special Education offers master's degree programs off-campus in coordination with federal personnel preparation grant awards. For information on currently available off-campus programs, please visit the Department's website (<https://education.illinois.edu/sped/>).

## Licensure

The Council on Teacher Education (<http://cote.illinois.edu/>) functions as the all-University governance system for licensure. Graduate students who wish to qualify for the Council's recommendation for a teaching license must complete the appropriate graduate program. The Department of Special Education offers graduate-level licensure/endorsement programs in Learning and Behavior Specialist I (LBS-I) and Learning and Behavior Specialist II (LBS-II). Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) master's degree students who already hold a Professional Educator License who went through an early childhood approved program qualify for the Illinois ECSE approval. Additionally, there is a program option that allows ECSE master's students to receive licensure in early childhood education and a letter of approval in ECSE.

## Faculty Research Interests

The Department of Special Education faculty have a variety of research interests. There are multiple opportunities for graduate students to engage in research activities with faculty. For information about specific faculty research interests, current grants, and publications, please visit the Faculty Finder (<https://education.illinois.edu/faculty-finder/sped/>).

## Facilities and Resources

The College of Education has many resources to assist graduate students through their academic career. Each student completing a degree program is assigned a graduate advisor, who is available to assist the student with planning the program of study and determining degree requirements, courses, and timelines for degree completion.

Information on university resources can be found at the GradMAP pages website (<http://www.grad.illinois.edu/current-students/>).

## Financial Aid

Students engaged in graduate study and research at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign find an environment where collaboration among faculty members and students is nurtured and rewarded and where the students' contributions are recognized and valued. In many cases, this recognition comes in the form of financial awards that enable students to devote concentrated attention to their studies. Traineeships are grant-funded and are available for full-time students. Other financial aid opportunities (e.g., fellowships and assistantships) are available on a competitive basis. Students who are awarded traineeships, assistantships, or fellowships are exempt from payment of tuition and some fees in the semester in which funding is awarded.

Financial aid in the form of assistantships, scholarships, fellowships, and tuition waivers can be found throughout the college (<https://education.illinois.edu/current-students/graduate/financial-aid/>) and campus. Campus opportunities can be found at the Graduate College (<http://www.grad.illinois.edu/funding-jobs/>) and the Office of Student Financial Aid (<http://www.osfa.illinois.edu/>).

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The Department of Special Education offers many programs leading to the degree of Master of Education (Ed.M.). A list of programs and additional requirements can be found on the program's website, (<https://education.illinois.edu/faceted-search/programs/?degree=edm&department=sped>) the College of Education Graduate Programs Handbook (<https://education.illinois.edu/current-students/graduate/coe-graduate-handbook/>), and the Graduate College Handbook (<http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook/>).

Students may select a concentration in Bilingual-Bicultural Education (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/education/concentration/bilingual-bicultural-education/>) or Digital Learning (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/education/concentration/digital-learning/>).

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Special Education Coursework</b>		<b>18</b>
SPED 517	Disability Issues in Special Education	
SPED 524	Supervised Practice in Special Education	
SPED 526 or SPED 566	Collaborative Leaders in Special Education Leadership in Early Childhood Special Education	

SPED 591	Field Study and Thesis Seminar	
<b>Foundations Courses</b>		<b>8</b>
Select two of the following foundations courses, taken for four credit hours each.		
CI 446	Culture in the Classroom	
CI 501	Curriculum Development for the 21st Century	
EPOL 401	History of American Education	
EPOL 402	Asian American Education	
EPOL 403	Historical and Social Barriers	
EPOL 405	School and Society	
EPOL 406	Professional Ethics in Education	
EPOL 407	Critical Thinking in Education	
EPOL 408		
EPOL 409	Sociology of Education	
EPOL 410	Racial and Ethnic Families	
EPOL 412	Politics of Education	
EPOL 413	Economics of Education	
EPOL 480	Technology and Educational Reform	
EPOL 552	Foundation of Higher Education	
Any 400 level EPSY course		
EPSY 553	Global Issues in Learning	
Elective Hours:		6
400/500-Level Hours Required: (Independent Study included)		
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>32</b>

**Other Requirements:**

Requirement	Description
Program/Licensure Requirements	10-61 hours depending on emphasis
Minimum GPA	3.0

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used to inform instructional practices with persons with disabilities by engaging in a capstone research project.

- Graduate students will become reflective practitioners who problem solve and change their practice to improve services provided to individuals with disabilities and their families.

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## Special Education Department

Department Head: Matthew Lambert (matt5@illinois.edu)

Director of Graduate Studies: Kary Zarate (kzarat2@illinois.edu)

Graduate admissions information: Mitzi Koeberlein (koeberle@illinois.edu)

Special Education Department website (<http://education.illinois.edu/sped/>)

Special Education faculty (<https://education.illinois.edu/faculty-finder/sped/>)

142 Education Building, 1310 South Sixth Street, Champaign, IL 61820 (217) 244-3542

Graduate Student Services Office email (gradservices@education.illinois.edu)

## College of Education

College of Education website (<http://education.illinois.edu/>)

College of Education programs (<https://education.illinois.edu/faceted-search/programs/>)

## Admissions

Graduate College Admissions & Requirements (<https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply/>)

College of Education Admissions Requirements (<https://education.illinois.edu/programs/grad/how-to-apply/?url=/programs/grad>)

All students who complete a master's degree in the Department of Special Education will:

- Students who complete a master's degree resulting in teacher certification (e.g., LBS I or LBS II) or endorsement/credential (ECSE/ EI) will demonstrate the acquisition of the knowledge and skills required to be competent novice special education teachers by meeting the indicators addressed in several sets of standards. These indicators are embedded in coursework, field-based activities, and other related professional experiences.
- Graduate students who complete the LBS II Multiple Disabilities or ECSE course sequence will demonstrate expertise and leadership in their respective areas of specialization by engaging in: a) collaborative leadership activities, b) mentoring other educators, c) practicing effective communication skills, d) acting as change agents, and e) advocating for learners with disabilities.
- Graduate students will expand and deepen their attitudes, knowledge and skills about evidence-based practices that result in improved learning and successful outcomes for students with disabilities.
- Graduate students will acquire the knowledge and skills to understand multiple research methodologies and how research is