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 is the master’s program that prepares teachers for their initial teaching licensure. The other master’s programs are available for practicing teachers and other professionals interested in graduate studies. 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.

Graduate Degree Programs in Special Education

- Special Education, EdM (p. 1) (on campus & off-campus)
- optional concentrations:
  - Bilingual-Bicultural Education (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/education/concentration/bilingual-bicultural-education/)
  - Digital Learning (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/education/concentration/digital-learning/)
- Special Education, MS (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/education/special-education-ms/)
- optional concentrations:
  - Bilingual-Bicultural Education (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/education/concentration/bilingual-bicultural-education/)
  - Digital Learning (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/education/concentration/digital-learning/)
- Special Education, PhD (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/education/special-education-phd/)

Admission

Applicants must submit a complete application for admission. The applicant must submit three letters of reference and transcripts of all previous undergraduate and graduate work. 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. The applicant must also submit a goal statement indicating his/her interests, experiences, and goals for pursuing graduate study in special education. In addition to the above items, international students must submit a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score (taken within two years of the start of the semester for which the student is requesting admission). International students must have a total iBT score greater than 102 (72nd-79th percentile). The minimum speaking score is 24 (79th percentile).

Off-Campus Program

The Department of Special Education offers master’s degree programs off-campus in coordination with Federal Personnel Preparation Grant awards. The focus of the off-campus program changes depending on the type of grant award. For example, past emphases have been on behavior intervention and multiple disabilities. For information on currently available off-campus programs, please visit the Department’s website at 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 or administrative license must complete the appropriate graduate program. The Department of Special Education offers graduate-level licensure programs in Learning and Behavior Specialist I (LBS-I), and Learning and Behavior Specialist II (LBS-II). Early Childhood Special Education master’s students who already hold a Professional Educator License who went through an Early Childhood approved program qualify for the Illinois ECSE approval.

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 also has many resources to assist graduate students through their academic career. The Bureau of Educational Research works with students to secure research funding. The Council on Teacher Education (http://cote.illinois.edu/) entitles candidates seeking a Professional Educator License and provides accreditation of professional education programs. Each student completing a degree program is assigned a graduate adviser, 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 http://www.grad.illinois.edu/current-students/.

Financial Aid
Students engaged in graduate study and research at the University of Illinois at 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. Virtually all doctoral candidates receive assistantships/traineeships. Traineeships are grant funded and are available for full-time students pursuing initial teacher licensure and leadership preparation in specific areas. Other financial aid opportunities (e.g., fellowships and assistantships) are available on a competitive basis. Students receiving traineeships, assistantships, and fellowships are exempt from payment of tuition and some fees.

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/). Please note: Graduate students employed as Staff by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign are not eligible for a College of Education Award or Scholarship.

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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/).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EPSY 400</td>
<td>Psychology of Learning in Education</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>EPSY 401</td>
<td>Child Language and Education</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>EPSY 402</td>
<td>Sociocultural Influence on Learning</td>
<td></td>
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<td>EPSY 404</td>
<td>Adjustment in School Settings</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>EPSY 405</td>
<td>Personality and Soc Dev</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>EPSY 406</td>
<td>Psychology of Classroom Management</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>EPSY 407</td>
<td>Adult Learning and Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>EPSY 408</td>
<td>Learning and Human Development with Educational Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>EPSY 430</td>
<td>Early Adolescent Development</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>EPSY 485</td>
<td>Assessing Student Performance</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>EPSY 490</td>
<td>Developments in Educational Psychology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPSY 553</td>
<td>Global Issues in Learning</td>
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Select a minimum of 18 hours from the following: 18

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>SPED 517</td>
<td>Disability Issues in Special Education</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

Information listed in this catalog is current as of 10/2022
SPED 524  Supervised Practice in Special Education
SPED 526  Collaborative Leaders in Special Education
  or  SPED 566  Leadership in Early Childhood Special Education
SPED 591  Field Study and Thesis Seminar

Elective Hours:  6
400/500-Level Hours Required: 6 hours (Independent Study included)
Research/Project/Independent Study Hours (min/max applied toward degree):  0-6
Total Hours  32

Other Requirements:

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program/Licensure Requirements</td>
<td>10-61 hours depending on emphasis, <a href="http://education.illinois.edu/sped/programs/">http://education.illinois.edu/sped/programs/</a> (<a href="http://education.illinois.edu/sped/programs/">http://education.illinois.edu/sped/programs/</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum GPA</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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</table>

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

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. Graduate students will acquire the knowledge and skills to understand multiple research methodologies and how research is used to inform instructional practices with persons with disabilities by engaging in a capstone research project.

5. 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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interim department head: Michelle Perry
director of graduate studies: Stacy Dymond
graduate admissions information: Linda Stimson
overview of admissions & requirements: College of Education (https://education.illinois.edu/programs/grad/how-to-apply/?url=/programs/grad)
overview of graduate college admissions & requirements: https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply (https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply/)
department website: http://education.illinois.edu/sped (http://education.illinois.edu/sped/)
program website: College of Education Programs (https://education.illinois.edu/faceted-search/programs/)
department faculty: Special Education Faculty (https://education.illinois.edu/faculty-finder/sped/)
college website: http://education.illinois.edu/
department office: 142 Education Building, 1310 South Sixth Street, Champaign, IL 61820
phone: (217) 244-3542
e mail: gradservices@education.illinois.edu

Information listed in this catalog is current as of 10/2022