

# SPECIAL EDUCATION

<http://education.illinois.edu/sped>

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Major: Special Education  
 Degrees offered: Ed.M., M.S., C.A.S., Ph.D.

Off-Campus Program: Special Education  
 Degree Offered: Ed.M.

Medical Scholars Program: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Special Education and Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) through the Medical Scholars Program (<http://www.med.illinois.edu/mdphd>)

## Graduate Degree Programs

[www.education.illinois.edu/sped/programs/](http://www.education.illinois.edu/sped/programs/) (<http://www.education.illinois.edu/sped/programs>)

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), Learning and Behavior Specialist II (LBS-II), General Master's in Special Education, and Research Practitioner in Special Education. 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.

The Department also offers a terminal degree called the Certificate of Advanced Study (C.A.S.) in Special Education. The Certificate of Advanced Studies program is intended for students who desire a planned course of study beyond the master's degree, but do not wish to pursue the type of scholarly work typically expected in a doctoral program.

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree is a research focused degree and is tailored to the individual. Each candidate works closely with an adviser to develop an integrated course of study reflecting his or her goals in the area of special education. All doctoral students have the opportunity to be involved in research, university teaching, and service to the field of special education during their doctoral studies. Doctoral students typically complete the program in four to five years of full-time resident study. Please see the Department of Special Education [www.education.illinois.edu/sped/programs/DocProgram.html](http://www.education.illinois.edu/sped/programs/DocProgram.html) (<http://www.education.illinois.edu/sped/programs/DocProgram.html>) for more information about requirements and to view the Department of Special Education Doctoral Advisement Manual.

## Admission

<http://education.illinois.edu/programs/grad/how-to-apply>

Applicants must submit a complete application for admission. The application is located on the Graduate College Web site. (<http://www.grad.illinois.edu>) 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). Master's applicants should also submit a Master's Degree Program Special Education Form (<http://education.illinois.edu/programs/grad/how-to-apply>). Doctoral program applicants are required to submit a writing sample in addition to their goal statement.

## 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 degree requirements, see the Master of Education chart above.

## Medical Scholars Program

**Please note applications are not being accepted at this time.**

The Medical Scholars Program permits highly qualified students to integrate the study of medicine with study for a graduate degree in a second discipline, including Special Education. Students may apply to the Medical Scholars Program prior to beginning graduate school or while in the graduate program. Applicants to the Medical Scholars Program must meet the admissions standards for and be accepted into both the doctoral graduate program and the College of Medicine. Students in the dual degree program must meet the specific requirements for both the medical and graduate degrees. On average, students take eight years to complete both degrees. Further information on this program is available by contacting the Medical Scholars Program, 125 Medical Sciences Building, (217) 333-8146 or at [www.med.illinois.edu/msp](http://www.med.illinois.edu/msp) (<http://www.med.illinois.edu/msp>).

## Licensure

The Council on Teacher Education 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. Students completing the Director of Special Education focus are eligible for the State of Illinois Director of Special Education endorsement. For specific information about licensure requirements, call the Council on Teacher Education (217-333-7195) or go to [www.cote.illinois.edu](http://www.cote.illinois.edu) (<http://www.cote.illinois.edu>).

## 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 Research Profiles web site [education.illinois.edu/sped/](http://education.illinois.edu/sped/) Research-Teaching-and-Service (<http://education.illinois.edu/sped/Research-Teaching-and-Service>).

## Facilities and Resources

The College of Education 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 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 to part-time and other master's degree students on a competitive basis. Students receiving traineeships, assistantships, and fellowships are exempt from payment of tuition and some fees.

There are opportunities available through the department (<http://www.ed.illinois.edu/sped/financialaid.html>), the College of Education (<http://education.illinois.edu>), and the Bureau of Educational Research (<http://www.ed.illinois.edu/ber/fundingresources.html>). 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. 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>).

- Master of Education in Special Education (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/ed-specialed/edm-special-education>)
- Master of Science in Special Education (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/ed-specialed/ms-special-education>)

Please refer to the departmental website for typical course sequences and licensure requirements (<http://www.education.illinois.edu/sped/programs>) for specific program emphases.

## Doctor of Philosophy in Special Education

Code	Title	Hours
Completion of at least 64 hours beyond the master's degree including:		
Major Subject Coursework (minimum)		32
SPED 599	Thesis Research (min/max applied toward degree)	4-20
Independent Study (min/max applied toward degree)		0-12
Research coursework <sup>1</sup>		16-20
Total Hours		64

### Other Requirements <sup>2</sup>

Minimum GPA 3.0

Masters Degree Required for Admission to PhD

Residency: Maintain continuous full time (12 hours) enrollment until the student takes the preliminary examination and during the graduating semester. Zero hours are required for all other semesters.

Early Research Requirement

Qualifying Exams

Human Subjects Approval

Preliminary Exam

Final Exam/Dissertation Defense

Dissertation Deposit

<sup>1</sup> All students will take a minimum of 16-20 credit hours, depending on area of methodology focus, in approved research methods courses (<http://education.illinois.edu/current-students/graduate/coe-graduate-handbook/phd/research-requirement>).

<sup>2</sup> For additional details and requirements refer to the department's Web site (<http://www.education.illinois.edu/sped>), the College of Education Graduate Programs Handbook ([http://education.illinois.edu/students/grad\\_handbook](http://education.illinois.edu/students/grad_handbook)), and the Graduate College Handbook (<http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook>).

## Certificate of Advanced Study in Special Education

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's College of Education complies with the U.S. Department of Education's Gainful Employment requirements by disclosing information to applicants regarding our Certificate of Advanced Study program. Required information can be found here ([http://creativeservices.illinois.edu/provost/CAS\\_SPED/13.1001-Gedt.html](http://creativeservices.illinois.edu/provost/CAS_SPED/13.1001-Gedt.html)).

Code	Title	Hours
<b>If the student does not have a Masters degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Foundations Courses must be completed:</b>		
Psychological Foundations Courses in Educational Psychology		
Select one of the following:		4
EPSY 400	Psyc of Learning in Education	
EPSY 401	Child Language and Education	

EPSY 402	Sociocultural Infl on Learning
EPSY 404	Adjustment in School Settings
EPSY 405	Personality and Soc Dev
EPSY 406	Psyc of Classroom Management
EPSY 407	Adult Learning and Development
EPSY 408	Learning & Hum Dev w/ EdTech
EPSY 430	Early Adolescent Development
EPSY 485	Assessing Student Performance
EPSY 490	Developments in Educ Psyc

Philosophical and Social Foundations Courses in Educational Policy Studies

Select one of the following: 4

EOL 548	Poli & Cultural Context of Ed
EPS 400	History of American Education
EPS 401	History of Educational Ideas
EPS 402	Asian American Education
EPS 403	European Education to 1600
EPS 404	European Education since 1600
EPS 405	Historical & Social Barriers
EPS 410	Professional Ethics in Education
EPS 411	School and Society
EPS 412	Critical Thinking for Teachers
EPS 415	Technology & Educational Reform
EPS 420	Sociology of Education
EPS 421	Racial and Ethnic Families
EPS 423	Politics of Education
EPS 424	Economics of Education
EPS 426	Comparative Education

Elective Hours: 24

500-Level Hours Required: 12 hours (Independent Study included)

General Coursework Required: 20 hours

Research/Project/Independent Study Hours (min/max applied toward degree): 0-8

Total Hours 32

### Other Requirements <sup>1</sup>

Enrollment must be preceded by at least two years of acceptable professional work experience.

Minimum GPA: 3.0

<sup>1</sup> For additional details and requirements refer to the department's Web site, the College of Education Graduate Programs Handbook, and the Graduate College Handbook.