

SPECIAL EDUCATION, MA

Introduction

The Master of Arts in Special Education prepares educators to deliver high-quality educational experiences for students with a range of emotional and learning needs, including gifted children. We strive to prepare compassionate leaders who are dedicated to social justice and excellence for all students and families. This degree equips you with the most impactful and effective skills for leading inclusive classrooms and collaborating with professionals in the field and the community.

Students learn from nationally and internationally recognized faculty members who are known for developing innovative practices and designing research in literacy, language, social and emotional growth, gifted and talented learners, students with learning disabilities and building a diverse teacher workforce.

The MA Special Education does not include a license or an endorsement.

Students are responsible for reviewing the Special Education Resources website regularly, including the SPED Handbook and SPED course rotation: <https://education.ucdenver.edu/academic-services/student-resources/graduate/special-education>

Program Requirements

The 30 credit hour Personalized Professional MA path provides the opportunity for you to personalize your coursework to your specific professional goals as an educator. **This MA does NOT lead to a license or an endorsement.** A current teaching license is not required for the Personalized Professional MA. In consultation with the approval from your Faculty Advisor, select 3 courses (9 semester hours) of graduate-level SPED core coursework and 5 courses (15 semester hours) from the Thematic Course Categories (or any graduate-level School of Education & Human Development course with Faculty Advisor approval). Finally, take a research RSEM course for 3 credits (RSEM 5080 preferred or any 5000-level RSEM course with Faculty Advisor approval) and complete SPED 5401 Advanced Seminar in Special Education which fulfills the capstone requirement (3 credits) for a total of 30 credits.

Code	Title	Hours
Core Courses		
Select three of the following:		9
SPED 5000	Universal Design for Learning (UDL)	
SPED 5030	Understanding (dis)Ability in Contemporary Classrooms	
SPED 5010	Intentional Interventions for Exceptional Learners	
SPED 5140	Assessment: Inquiry, Instruction, & Intervention	
SPED 5151	Slashing Stigmas: Promoting Positive Behaviors	
SPED 5300	Family, Professional, and Community Collaboration	
SPED 5500	Transition and Secondary Methods in Special Education	
SPED 5740	Intersections of Literacy, Culture, & Exceptionality	
SPED 5780	Literacy Intervention for Exceptional Learners	
Thematic Course Categories		

In consultation with your faculty advisor, select five courses from the Thematic Course Categories to customize your learning: <https://education.ucdenver.edu/academic-services/student-resources/thematic-course-categories> (<https://education.ucdenver.edu/academic-services/student-resources/thematic-course-categories/>) or any graduate-level SEHD courses with faculty advisor approval.

Course 1		3
Course 2		3
Course 3		3
Course 4		3
Course 5		3
Research Course		
RSEM 5080	Research In Schools (or faculty advisor approval for any 5000-level RSEM course)	3
Capstone Course		
SPED 5401	Advanced Seminar in Special Education	3
Total Hours		30

Capstone Requirement

SPED 5401 Advanced Seminar in Special Education is the Special Education Capstone class, which fulfills the COMPS requirement for MA students. Plan to take the capstone course in your final Spring semester. The intent of the Capstone is to help candidates synthesize learning through a final project that speaks to academic and professional development in the SPED Program. The capstone should tell the story of what was learned, specific areas of interest, and address ongoing barriers experienced in the field. Your Capstone requirements will be fulfilled by completion of SPED 5401 Advanced Seminar in Special Education.

Program Requirements and Courses

To complete the SPED Education program and earn a master's degree, students must complete the appropriate course work as outlined. All courses require a grade of B- or better and a 3.0 minimum GPA is required for graduation.

Course Scheduling

Courses are offered in various formats, including completely face-to-face classes, hybrid, remote, or online classes. In the summer semester, three-to eight-week sessions are offered.

Planning

For practicing full-time teachers, we recommend taking one course each fall and spring semester, and up to two courses each summer. Plan carefully because some courses are only offered once a year. Several courses have case study requirements with a K-12 student population. If you are not working in a school, you will consult with your instructor for an alternative assignment.

Active Status

Students must complete their programs within seven years, maintaining a GPA of 3.0 (B average). Please refer to the Student Handbook for information on Academic Probation. Students typically take four courses each calendar year. Failure to enroll over three continuous semesters will result in a requirement to submit readmission materials