

SPECIAL EDUCATION - MASTER OF ARTS

Enrollment in graduate licensure program courses with field experiences in Special Education is limited to persons who have been accepted into the graduate program in Special Education. For other special education graduate courses, enrollment of students outside of the special education program is contingent upon meeting prerequisites and availability after enrollment of Special Education graduate students. To complete a course of study, each student must meet the program's academic and field-based competency criteria, including a grade of B or higher in each course in the program of study, satisfactory evaluation in field experiences for those seeking licensure, and a passing score on the MA Comprehensive Exam or Capstone. The Master of Arts in Special Education has pathways to meet the varied needs of students pursuing graduate education and can be completed in two years for full-time students.

Master of Arts in Special Education (Plus Licensure)

This route is 42 credits including student teaching and provides preparation for the New Mexico pre-K-12 Special Education license. Candidates must be admitted to the Teacher Education Program before completing practicum and student teaching experiences.

Prefix	Title	Credits
Course Requirements		
SPED 5105	Introduction to Special Education in a Diverse Society	3
SPED 5230	Advanced Curriculum for Diverse Exceptional Learners	3
SPED 5210	Introduction to Assessment of Diverse Exceptional Learners	3
SPED 5120	High Incidence Disabilities in a Diverse Society	3
SPED 5110	Low Incidence Disabilities in a Diverse Society	3
SPED 5130	Reading for Elementary Exceptional Learners in a Diverse Society, K-6	3
SPED 5860	Current Issues in Special Education for Teaching in Culturally Responsive Society	3
SPED 5140	Reading for Secondary Exceptional Learners in a Diverse Society, 7-12	3
SPED 5160 or EDUC 5130	Technology and Exceptionality in a Diverse Society Technology and Pedagogy	3
SPED 5811	Field Experience in Education, Equity & Cultural Diversity	3
SPED 5220	Classroom Management for Diverse Learners	3
SPED 5810	Student Teaching SPED	6
<i>Special Education Student Teaching Seminar Courses (based on concentration)</i> ³		
SPED 5830	Special Education/Elementary Student Teaching Seminar	3
SPED 5840	Special Education/Secondary Student Teaching Seminar	3
Total Credits		42

¹ Admittance to TEP is required before registering for SPED 5811 Field Experience in Education, Equity & Cultural Diversity, which must be taken the semester before student teaching.

² Admittance to STEP is required before registering for SPED 5810 Student Teaching SPED and SPED 5830/SPED 5840, which are the culminating courses.

³ A capstone project is completed during this course in lieu of a Master's exam to meet NM licensure requirements.

Master of Arts in Special Education (Scholarly Route)

This route requires 30 credits of special education coursework and is for students who are not seeking licensure or who already have a license and are seeking additional depth of knowledge. A Master's exam during the culminating semester is required for program completion.

There are two course prerequisites that may be required, SPED 5105 Introduction to Special Education in a Diverse Society and SPED 5230 Advanced Curriculum for Diverse Exceptional Learners. If these are required they must be taken in the first semester they are offered.

Prefix	Title	Credits
Course Required		
SPED 5850	Current Research in Special Education	3
SPED 5860	Current Issues in Special Education for Teaching in Culturally Responsive Society	3
SPED Elective Courses ¹		24
Total Credits		30

¹ Electives are selected in consultation with an advisor, who will make recommendations based on prior coursework and individual student interests.

Master of Arts in Special Education (emphasis in Visual Impairment)

This route requires 30-36 credit hours in visual impairment and special education coursework and prepares for licensure in teaching school-aged children/infants/toddlers and/or orientation and mobility. Students who meet qualifications and are interested in visual impairment may elect to pursue licensure only, rather than a master's degree, with 15-27 credits leading to a Blind and Visually Impaired Teaching License or National Certification in Orientation and Mobility. We provide two different areas of focus. One focus is for Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments/ Visual Impairment Focus (TSVIs/VI Focus) and the other focus is for Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists (COMSs). A Master's exam during the culminating semester is required for program completion.

TSVI/VI Focus Coursework

Prefix	Title	Credits
SPED 5405	Foundations of Visual Impairment	3
SPED 5410	Functional Implications of Low Vision	3
SPED 5420	Strategies for Teaching Students with Visual and Multiple Impairments	3
SPED 5450	Strategies for Teaching Students with Visual Impairments	3
SPED 5460	Introduction to Orientation and Mobility	3
SPED 5430	Braille I: Literacy for Students with Visual Impairments	3
SPED 5440	Braille II: Numeracy for Students with Visual Impairments	3
SPED 5105	Introduction to Special Education in a Diverse Society	3

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SPED 5860	Current Issues in Special Education for Teaching in Culturally Responsive Society	3
SPED 5996	Topics in Special Education	3

COMS Focus Coursework

Prefix	Title	Credits
SPED 5405	Foundations of Visual Impairment	3
SPED 5410	Functional Implications of Low Vision	3
SPED 5420	Strategies for Teaching Students with Visual and Multiple Impairments	3
SPED 5460	Introduction to Orientation and Mobility	3
SPED 5470	Beginning Orientation and Mobility	3
SPED 5480	Intermediate Orientation and Mobility	3
SPED 5490	Advanced Orientation and Mobility	3
SPED 5105	Introduction to Special Education in a Diverse Society	3
SPED 5860	Current Issues in Special Education for Teaching in Culturally Responsive Society	3
SPED 5996	Topics in Special Education	3