

Graduate Certificate in Special Education

Admissions Requirements

The following criteria will be used to assess a student's application for admission into the Graduate Certificate in Special Education. No single criterion can adequately predict a student's probable success in graduate work. Applicants should anticipate that the materials they submit will be held to high standards with submission of the following:

1. Online application and fee of \$35
2. **GPA/Transcripts:** A cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.75 for all graduate work (must have minimum of 9 credits) or for junior and senior years of undergraduate work (based on A = 4.00). Submit transcripts from undergraduate and/or graduate level coursework.
3. Provide two letters of recommendation from professionals in the field of special education. These letters need to specifically address employment, coursework, and/or interest in relation to individuals with disabilities.

Descriptions of the Specialization Areas

Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE): The ECSE specialization area focuses on children from birth to age nine and addresses various disabilities, primarily developmental in nature, and addresses several aspects of ECSE including characteristics, assessment, methods/strategies, all forms of development, (e.g., language, physical), and application in a field setting.

Emotional Behavioral Disorders (EBD): The ED specialization area focuses on children and adolescents with both emotional and behavior disorders and addresses several aspects of EBD including characteristics, assessment, behavior and academic methods/strategies, and application in a field setting.

Intellectual Disabilities (ID): The ID specialization area focuses on children and adolescents with intellectual disabilities and addresses several aspects of ID including characteristics, assessment, methods/strategies, and application in a field setting.

Learning Disabilities (LD): The LD specialization area focuses on children and adolescents with learning problems that are not due to developmental, emotional, or cognitive disabilities and addresses several aspects of LD including characteristics, assessment, methods/strategies, and application in a field setting.

Behavior Intervention Specialist (BIS): The BIS specialization prepares educators to support children and adolescents who use behaviors that interfere with instruction and social-emotional development. This specialization provides training and experience in (a) the assessment and treatment of challenging behaviors and (b) the facilitation of interdisciplinary and stakeholder teaming to support individual children and their caregivers.

Degree Requirements

Students seeking the Graduate Certificate in Special Education at the University of North Dakota must satisfy all general requirements set forth by the School of Graduate Studies as well as particular requirements set forth by the Special Education Program.

1. A minimum of 15 credits is required for the certificate.
2. A maximum of one-fourth of the credit hours may be transferred from another institution.
3. ECSE, EBD, ID, and/or LD Requirements: Six credits of Special Education Core Coursework and an additional nine credits focusing on the specific disability area (i.e. ECSE, EBD, ID, and/or LD).
4. BIS Requirements: 15 credits focusing on Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and Behavior Intervention. Students pursuing the BIS will not be required to complete the Core Courses.

Core Courses (6 cr.)

Code	Title	Credits
SPED 521	IEP and the Transition Process	3
Choose 1 of the following assessment courses. Only those completing the ECSE specialization will take SPED 511. All other specialization areas (i.e. EBD, ID, and LD) will take SPED 551.		
SPED 551	Advanced Assessment in Special Education	3
SPED 511	Identification and Assessment of Young Children with Special Needs	3

Specialization Areas (9 cr. each)

Behavior Intervention Specialist (BIS)

Code	Title	Credits
SPED 540		3
SPED 541		3
SPED 542		3
SPED 545		4
SPED 579	Internship: Behavioral Intervention Specialist	2

Emotional Behavioral Disorders (EBD)

Code	Title	Credits
SPED 550	Foundations of Special Education with Emphasis in ASD, EBD, ID, and LD	3
SPED 555	Advanced Methods: Emotional Behavioral Disorders	3
SPED 586	Internship: Emotional Behavioral Disorders	3

Intellectual Disabilities (ID)

Code	Title	Credits
SPED 550	Foundations of Special Education with Emphasis in ASD, EBD, ID, and LD	3
SPED 556	Advanced Methods: Intellectual Disabilities	3
SPED 587	Internship: Intellectual Disabilities	3

Learning Disabilities (LD)

Code	Title	Credits
SPED 550	Foundations of Special Education with Emphasis in ASD, EBD, ID, and LD	3
SPED 554	Advanced Methods: Learning Disabilities	3
SPED 588	Internship: Learning Disabilities	3

Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)

Code	Title	Credits
SPED 510	Introduction to Early Childhood Special Education	3
SPED 512	Methods and Materials for Preschool Children with Special Needs	3
SPED 589	Internship: Early Childhood Special Education	3