

Master of Science in Special Education

Upon offer of admission, the following will be required: Successful passage of FBI criminal background check

Admission Requirements for the M.S.

The Master of Science (M.S.) is for those who already have a degree in education. The M.S. will have a research to practice focus.

1. A bachelor's degree.
2. A cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 2.75 for all undergraduate work (based on A = 4.00).
3. Satisfy the School of Graduate Studies' English Language Proficiency requirements as published in the graduate catalog.

Admission Process

1. Complete the School of Graduate Studies' online application.
2. Submit the application fee of \$35.
3. Three Letters of Recommendation are required: one from an employment supervisor or administrator, one from a professional colleague or university professor, and one from a professional of your choosing.
4. Request one official copy of all academic transcripts from all colleges and universities you have attempted credit at, including undergraduate and graduate course work.
5. One Personal Statement, which will include the questions listed below specific to special education, will be required on the master's application.

Personal Statement

The length of each response should be 1-2 pages double-spaced. The personal statement is scored for depth of discussion, authenticity, organization, and mechanics.

Respond to the four questions below:

1. Explain how your experiences/interests reflect your capacity for the specialization area you are applying for specifically (i.e., ASD, BIS, EBD, ECSE, General, ID, LD, SES, and VI).
2. Identify a behavioral or learning need with an individual with whom you know professionally or personally and describe your approach to managing the individual's specific need.
3. Graduate school may be challenging due to competing demands for your time. Please address how you will navigate these challenges by utilizing your strengths.
4. In this master's program, you will receive constructive feedback to develop and/or enhance your skills. Explain how you have perceived and managed this type of feedback in your past experiences.

Specialization Areas

- **Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA):** The ABA specialization area includes coursework and an intensive practicum that focuses on concepts and principles, assessment and behavior change systems, methods and applications, ethics, and research methods. This specialization is approved by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board.
- **Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD):** The ASD specialization area focuses on children, adolescents, and adults with ASD and addresses several aspects of ASD including characteristics, assessment, methods/strategies, inter-agency collaboration/support, 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 assessment and treatment of challenging behaviors and facilitation of interdisciplinary and stakeholder teaming to support individual children and their caregivers.

- **Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE):** The ECSE specialization area focuses on children from birth to age eight 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 EBD 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.
- **General Special Education:** The general specialization area is a "design your own program" option. Students can choose courses from all of the courses offered by the special education program.
- **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.
- **Special Education Strategist (SES):** The SES specialization area is a cross-categorical area that encompasses all of the courses in the specialization areas of ID, EBD, and LD.
- **Visual Impairment (VI):** The VI specialization area focuses on children and adolescents who are visually impaired or blind and addresses several aspects of VI including characteristics, assessment, braille code, methods/strategies, orientation/mobility, and application in a field setting.

Degree Requirements

Students seeking the Master of Science degree 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 30 credits at or above the 500 level is required for the degree. Additional credits may be needed for professional licensure.
2. A maximum of one-fourth of the credit hours may be transferred from another institution.
3. Two credits of SPED 995 Scholarly Project or four credits of T&L 998 Thesis.
4. Nine credits of Special Education Core Coursework (excluding students in the ABA specialization).

Code	Title	Credits
SPED 525	Legal/Ethical Aspects in Special Education	3
SPED 578	Behavior Management	3
Select 1 of the Following:		
SPED 500	Introduction to Visual Impairment	3
SPED 510	Introduction to Early Childhood Special Education	3
SPED 552	Inclusive Methods	3

Six credits of scholarly tools/assessment courses. Choose two of the following:

Code	Title	Credits
SPED 511	Identification and Assessment of Young Children with Special Needs	3
SPED 551	Advanced Assessment in Special Education	3
SPED 557	Progress Monitoring	3
SPED 567	Assessment in Autism Spectrum Disorder	3
SPED 590	Special Topics in Special Education	1-4

Choose one or more specialization area/s and complete the required courses and elective courses for a minimum total of 30 credits for the M.S. degree:

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
ABA 540	Concepts and Principles in Behavior Analysis	3
ABA 541	Methods and Applications in Behavior Analysis	3
ABA 542	Ethical and Professional Conduct for Behavior Analysts	3
ABA 543	Behavior Analytic Supervision and OBM	3
ABA 544	Research Methods in Behavior Analysis	3
ABA 545	Assessment and Behavior Change Systems	4
ABA 546	Philosophical Underpinnings of Applied Behavior Analysis	3

Elective Courses: Choose additional courses in the Special Education Program Area to equal a minimum of 30 credits.

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
SPED 560	ASD: Foundations and Brain Based Differences	3
SPED 561	Methods for Autism Spectrum Disorder	3
SPED 567	Assessment in Autism Spectrum Disorder	3
SPED 583	Internship: Autism Spectrum Disorder	1-6

Elective Courses

Select from the following:

SPED 562	Autism Spectrum Disorder: Supports Across the Lifespan	3
SPED 563	Autism Spectrum Disorder: Medical Issues and Trends	3
SPED 564	ASD: Structured Teaching	3
SPED 565	ASD: Level 1 Supports and Foundations	3
SPED 566	Autism Spectrum Disorder: Intensive Early Intervention	3

Elective Courses: Choose additional courses in the Special Education Program Area to equal a minimum of 30 credits. Additional credits may be required for your state's teacher licensure requirements.

If seeking teacher certification in a state other than North Dakota, refer to that state's requirements.

Behavior Intervention Specialist (BIS)

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
ABA 540	Concepts and Principles in Behavior Analysis	3
ABA 541	Methods and Applications in Behavior Analysis	3
ABA 542	Ethical and Professional Conduct for Behavior Analysts	3
ABA 545	Assessment and Behavior Change Systems	4
SPED 579	Internship: Behavioral Intervention Specialist	1-6

Elective Courses: Choose additional courses in the Special Education Program Area to equal a minimum of 30 credits. Additional credits may be required for your state's teacher licensure requirements.

If seeking special education endorsement in BIS in North Dakota, confer with your advisor regarding these requirements. If seeking teacher certification in a state other than North Dakota, refer to that state's requirements.

Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
SPED 510	Introduction to Early Childhood Special Education	3
SPED 511	Identification and Assessment of Young Children with Special Needs	3
SPED 512	Methods and Materials for Preschool Children with Special Needs	3
SPED 589	Internship: Early Childhood Special Education	1-4
Elective Courses		
Select from the following:		
SPED 514	Intervention Strategies with Infants and Toddlers	3
SPED 521	IEP and the Transition Process	3
SPED 516	Collaborative Authentic Assessment in Early Intervention	3
SPED 528	Advanced Assistive Technology	3
SPED 557	Progress Monitoring	3
SPED 566	Autism Spectrum Disorder: Intensive Early Intervention	3
SPED 590	Special Topics in Special Education (Early Childhood Mental Health)	3
T&L 529	Language Development Cognition in Children	3
T&L 553	Collaborative Relationships: Home, School and Community	3

Elective Courses: Choose additional courses in the Special Education Program Area to equal a minimum of 30 credits. Additional credits may be required for your state's teacher licensure requirements.

If seeking special education endorsement in ECSE in North Dakota, confer with your advisor regarding these requirements. If seeking teacher certification in a state other than North Dakota, refer to that state's requirements.

Emotional Behavioral Disorders (EBD)

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
SPED 521	IEP and the Transition Process	3
SPED 551	Advanced Assessment in Special Education	3
SPED 550	Foundations of Special Education with Emphasis in ASD, EBD, ID, and LD	3
SPED 555	Advanced Methods: Emotional Behavioral Disorders	3
SPED 557	Progress Monitoring	3
SPED 586	Internship: Emotional Behavioral Disorders	1-6

Elective Courses: Choose additional courses in the Special Education Program Area to equal a minimum of 30 credits. Additional credits may be required for your state's teacher licensure requirements.

If seeking special education endorsement in EBD in North Dakota, confer with your advisor regarding these requirements. If seeking teacher certification in a state other than North Dakota, refer to that state's requirements.

General Special Education

Note that there are no additional required courses. A minimum of 19 credits can be selected from the following courses:

Code	Title	Credits
ABA 540	Concepts and Principles in Behavior Analysis	3
SPED 501	Diseases and Function of the Eye	2
SPED 503	Orientation and Mobility/Visual Impairment	2
SPED 505	Low Vision Assessment and Remediation	3

Code	Title	Credits
SPED 510	Introduction to Early Childhood Special Education	3
SPED 511	Identification and Assessment of Young Children with Special Needs	3
SPED 512	Methods and Materials for Preschool Children with Special Needs	3
SPED 514	Intervention Strategies with Infants and Toddlers	3
SPED 516	Collaborative Authentic Assessment in Early Intervention	3
SPED 521	IEP and the Transition Process	3
SPED 528	Advanced Assistive Technology	3
SPED 532	Visual Impairment/Early Intervention	3
SPED 550	Foundations of Special Education with Emphasis in ASD, EBD, ID, and LD	3
SPED 551	Advanced Assessment in Special Education	3
SPED 554	Advanced Methods: Learning Disabilities	3
SPED 555	Advanced Methods: Emotional Behavioral Disorders	3
SPED 556	Advanced Methods: Intellectual Disabilities	3
SPED 557	Progress Monitoring	3
SPED 560	ASD: Foundations and Brain Based Differences	3
SPED 561	Methods for Autism Spectrum Disorder	3
SPED 562	Autism Spectrum Disorder: Supports Across the Lifespan	3
SPED 563	Autism Spectrum Disorder: Medical Issues and Trends	3
SPED 564	ASD: Structured Teaching	3
SPED 565	ASD: Level 1 Supports and Foundations	3
SPED 566	Autism Spectrum Disorder: Intensive Early Intervention	3
SPED 567	Assessment in Autism Spectrum Disorder	3
SPED 580	Practicum: Special Education	1-6
SPED 581	Internship: General Special Education	1-6
SPED 590	Special Topics in Special Education (Early Childhood Mental Health)	3
T&L 553	Collaborative Relationships: Home, School and Community	3

Choose courses in the Special Education Program Area to equal a minimum of 30 credits. Additional credits may be required for your state's teacher licensure requirements.

Confer with your advisor regarding these requirements. If seeking teacher certification in a state other than North Dakota, refer to that state's requirements.

Intellectual Disabilities (ID)

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
SPED 521	IEP and the Transition Process	3
SPED 550	Foundations of Special Education with Emphasis in ASD, EBD, ID, and LD	3
SPED 551	Advanced Assessment in Special Education	3
SPED 556	Advanced Methods: Intellectual Disabilities	3
SPED 557	Progress Monitoring	3
SPED 587	Internship: Intellectual Disabilities	1-6

Elective Courses: Choose additional courses in the Special Education Program Area to equal a minimum of 30 credits. Additional credits may be required for your state's teacher licensure requirements.

If seeking special education endorsement in ID in North Dakota, confer with your advisor regarding these requirements. If seeking teacher certification in a state other than North Dakota, refer to that state's requirements.

Learning Disabilities (LD)

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
SPED 521	IEP and the Transition Process	3
SPED 550	Foundations of Special Education with Emphasis in ASD, EBD, ID, and LD	3
SPED 551	Advanced Assessment in Special Education	3
SPED 554	Advanced Methods: Learning Disabilities	3
SPED 557	Progress Monitoring	3
SPED 588	Internship: Learning Disabilities	1-6

Elective Courses: Choose additional courses in the Special Education Program Area to equal a minimum of 30 credits. Additional credits may be required for your state's teacher licensure requirements.

If seeking special education endorsement in LD in North Dakota, confer with your advisor regarding these requirements. If seeking teacher certification in a state other than North Dakota, refer to that state's requirements.

Special Education Strategist (SES)

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
SPED 521	IEP and the Transition Process	3
SPED 551	Advanced Assessment in Special Education	3
SPED 550	Foundations of Special Education with Emphasis in ASD, EBD, ID, and LD	3
SPED 554	Advanced Methods: Learning Disabilities	3
SPED 555	Advanced Methods: Emotional Behavioral Disorders	3
SPED 556	Advanced Methods: Intellectual Disabilities	3
SPED 557	Progress Monitoring	3
SPED 586	Internship: Emotional Behavioral Disorders	1-6
SPED 587	Internship: Intellectual Disabilities	1-6
SPED 588	Internship: Learning Disabilities	1-6

Elective Courses: Choose additional courses in the Special Education Program Area to equal a minimum of 30 credits. Additional credits may be required for your state's teacher licensure requirements.

If seeking special education endorsement in SES in North Dakota, confer with your advisor regarding these requirements. If seeking teacher certification in a state other than North Dakota, refer to that state's requirements.

Visual Impairment (VI)

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
SPED 500	Introduction to Visual Impairment	3
SPED 502	Braille Reading and Writing	2
SPED 505	Low Vision Assessment and Remediation	3
SPED 585	Internship: Visual Impairment	1-6
Elective Courses		
Select six courses of the following:		
SPED 501	Diseases and Function of the Eye	2
SPED 503	Orientation and Mobility/Visual Impairment	2
SPED 504	Communication Media and Methods/Visual Impairment	3
SPED 521	IEP and the Transition Process	3
SPED 528	Advanced Assistive Technology	3
SPED 530	Braille Code 1	2
SPED 531	Braille Code 2	2
SPED 532	Visual Impairment/Early Intervention	3
SPED 552	Inclusive Methods	3

SPED 557	Progress Monitoring	3
T&L 553	Collaborative Relationships: Home, School and Community	3

If seeking special education endorsement in VI in North Dakota, confer with your advisor regarding these requirements. If seeking teacher certification in a state other than North Dakota, refer to that state's requirements.