

SPECIAL EDUCATION, LBS1 (MA)

The Master of Arts in Special Education is designed for the licensed educator who desires to become an accomplished special education teacher as well as earn an LBS1 endorsement. This program is designed to provide teachers interested in special education with the knowledge and skills to work in a continuum of special education services (e.g., self-contained through inclusive). Graduates will be prepared to demonstrate competency and proficiency as a special education teacher regarding Individualized General Curriculum and Individualized Independence Curriculum (CEC, 2015). Emphasis on methods, assistive technology, and assessment for the following learners with disabilities' access needs includes: learning disabilities, social/emotional disabilities (internationally known as, and otherwise known as, emotional/behavioral disorders), intellectual disabilities (internationally known and formerly known as, mental retardation), physical disabilities, autism, multiple disabilities, other health impairment and traumatic brain injury. This program leads to an LBS1 endorsement provided that the appropriate state testing standard has been met.

This program will enable candidates to:

- Build and strengthen a theoretical understanding of the foundations of special education.
- Increase knowledge and skills in research-based assessment methods, curriculum, and instructional design and practice.
- Examine issues of inclusion and least restrictive environment, special education educational systems, and special education policy and law.
- Apply strategies and skills developed in coursework through practicum experiences.
- Conduct research to answer questions related to special education practices and successfully meeting the needs of all learners.

Candidates for this program will have experience providing special education service (as a special education teacher/educator, a speech-language pathologist, a school social worker or school psychologist) and hold a valid initial or existing Professional Teaching License (PEL).

General Graduate Admission Requirements

All applicants must meet the general admission requirements for Concordia University Chicago graduate programs as published in the Concordia University Chicago academic catalog (<http://catalog.cuchicago.edu/graduate/graduate-admission-student-services/>).

New students are accepted into graduate degree-seeking, certificate, endorsement and/or post-graduate programs for online and on-campus study in the fall, spring, or summer semesters. Previously admitted students seeking to change programs may do so at the beginning of a semester (only) by submitting a Change-of-Program quick app (<https://capp.cuchicago.edu/graduate/change-of-program/>). Applicants must be in good academic standing according to Concordia University Chicago's satisfactory academic progress standards at the time of requesting a program change.

Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
RES-6600	Research in Education	3
SPED-6230	Assistive Technology: Principles and Practice	3
SPED-6350	Characteristics & Learning Needs of Students with Academic and Physical Challenges ¹	3
SPED-6355	Instructional Strategies for Students with Academic and Physical Challenges ¹	3
SPED-6360	Characteristics & Learning Needs of Students with Specific Learning & Emotional Disabilities ¹	3
SPED-6365	Instructional Strategies for Students with Specific Learning Disabilities & Emotional Disabilities ¹	3
SPED-6370	Curriculum Based and Educational Measurements of Exceptional Learners ¹	3
SPED-6425	Psychology & Methods of Teaching the Exceptional Learner ¹	3
SPED-6890	Special Education Practicum 1: Content Area Learning and School Collaboration	3
SPED-6895	Special Education Practicum 2: Content Area Learning and Community Collaboration	3
Total Hours		30

¹ Six courses fulfill the state of Illinois course requirements for LBS1 Special Education endorsement.

Graduation Requirements

- Have on file an application as a degree-seeking graduate student.
- Have on file one official transcript from EACH college/university attended of all previous coursework taken.
- Complete, for the degree being sought:
 - the credit hours and levels as designated,
 - within the specified time limit,
 - with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.
- Students completing multiple advanced programs or degrees at CUC must have a 3.0 GPA in each academic program in addition to a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.
- If transfer credit is approved to be applied: have on file an approved "Graduate Transfer Credit Approval" form(s) or evaluation(s).
- Have on file the Intent to Graduate/Complete form with the Office of the Registrar by the published deadline.
- Have on file, if applicable, necessary copies of a project, thesis or dissertation.
- Take and pass the final examination or terminal requirements in the program during or after the final course.
- Approval of the faculty.
- Payments of all tuition and fees due to Concordia University Chicago. All holds must be removed to receive transcripts and diploma.

Every attempt has been made to include information to aid the student with information about his/her program, degree and graduation/completion requirements. It is, however, the student's responsibility

to complete all steps and meet all deadlines relevant to graduation requirements.

Successful candidates for program completion will have at least two years of teaching acquired prior to completion of the graduate program.

Students must pass the Illinois Content Area Test for Special Education (Learning Behavior Specialist 1 Test 155) and should pursue the endorsement via the Office of the Registrar upon completion of the required courses. Students take and pass the LBS1 test prior to beginning Practicum 1.