

SPECIAL EDUCATION (MAT)

The Master of Arts in Teaching: Special Education is designed to prepare qualified professionals for teaching in K through age 22 (transition-age) school settings.

Licensure: Upon successful completion of Special Education: Licensure degree requirements, candidates are eligible to apply for a Professional Educator License (PEL) with a special education endorsement from the state of Illinois for grades K through age 22.

Non-Licensure: Upon successful completion of Special Education: Non-Licensure degree requirements, candidates are not eligible to apply for any state of Illinois endorsement.

The Master of Arts in Teaching in Special Education provides candidates that are interested in special education with the knowledge and skills to work in a continuum of special education services in Illinois to serve learners with disabilities from kindergarten to age 22. Graduates will be prepared to demonstrate competency and proficiency as a special education teacher regarding specially designed instruction, Individualized General Curriculum, and Individualized Independence Curriculum (CEC, 2015; CEC 2020). Emphasis on instruction / 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, developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, autism, multiple disabilities, other health impairment, and traumatic brain injury. Students who successfully complete Pathway 1 are eligible to apply for an Illinois Professional Educator License with the LBS1 endorsement provided that the appropriate requirements, and state testing standards, have been met.

This program will enable candidates to:

- develop the abilities for research and critical thinking as a special educator
- exhibit high standards of professional competence and ethical practice
- develop competency in
 - specialized instruction,
 - curricular adaptation,
 - accessible technology,
 - individual learner needs,
 - assessment and data-informed decision-making,
 - effective instructional delivery,
 - collaborative processes,
 - ethical learning and leading,
 - social emotional learning,
 - reading instruction, and
 - methods in supporting diverse learners.
- improve understanding of the needs of families
- understand reflective practice and culture
- explore the role of advocacy for and with key stakeholders
- engage in planning for continuous improvement and professional learning

Pathway 1: Upon successful completion of Pathway 1 degree requirements, candidates are eligible to apply for a Professional Educator License (PEL)

with Special Education endorsement from the state of Illinois for grades PK-22.

Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Prerequisite to Professional Courses		
SPED-6425	Psychology & Methods of Teaching the Exceptional Learner	3
Professional Courses: Students must be admitted to Teacher Candidacy to continue		
EDU-6200	Beginning Reading Instruction	3
EDU-6212	Studies in Literacy and Multiliteracy	3
or EDU-6230	Content Reading: Middle and Secondary Schools	
SPED-6050	Teaching Culturally & Linguistically Diverse (CLD) Students w/ Disabilities: Characteristics Methods	3
or ESL-6630	Methods and Materials for Teaching Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students	
SPED-6230	Assistive Technology: Principles and Practice	3
SPED-6350	Characteristics and Learning Needs of Students with Academic and Physical Challenges	3
SPED-6355	Instructional Strategies for Students with Academic and Physical Challenges	3
SPED-6360	Characteristics and Learning Needs of Students with Specific Learning and Emotional Disabilities	3
SPED-6365	Instructional Strategies for Students with Specific Learning Disabilities and Emotional Disabilities	3
SPED-6370	Curriculum Based and Educational Measurements of Exceptional Learners	3
Student Teaching Internship		
EDUC-6985	Student Teaching Seminar ²	0
Select one:		
EDUC-6929	MAT SPED Student Teaching Internship	6
EDUC-6925	MAT Capstone ¹	3
Total Hours		33-36
SPED-6900	MAT-SPED Program Supervision (as needed)	0

¹ This course may only be taken with special approval of the Director of Field Experience and the Division Chair.

² To be taken concurrently with student teaching or capstone.

Students must have a grade of C or higher in all master's courses and content coursework for successful program completion.

Required Content Coursework (18 semester hours):

- Grades of C or higher in college-level coursework (not remedial) will fulfill content coursework requirements.
- Content coursework must be completed at regionally accredited institution(s) of higher education and be documented on official transcript(s).

- 3 semester hours: Writing
- 3 semester hours: Fine arts or literature
- 3 semester hours: Mathematics
- 3 semester hours: Science
- 3 semester hours: Social studies (American Government or U.S. History)
- 3 semester hours: Social science (psychology or sociology preferred)

Clinical Experience (Pre-Professional Hours)

- Minimum of 100 hours (all pre-professional hours are embedded in the MAT coursework).
- Each course will describe the number of hours required to be completed in classrooms and the nature of the experience that a candidate must complete.

Pathway 2: Pathway 2 graduates are not eligible for any state of Illinois endorsement upon completion of this program.

Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Prerequisite to Professional Courses		
SPED-6425	Psychology & Methods of Teaching the Exceptional Learner	3
Professional Courses		
EDU-6200	Beginning Reading Instruction	3
EDU-6212	Studies in Literacy and Multiliteracy	3
or EDU-6230	Content Reading: Middle and Secondary Schools	
SPED-6050	Teaching Culturally & Linguistically Diverse (CLD) Students w/ Disabilities: Characteristics Methods	3
or ESL-6630	Methods and Materials for Teaching Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students	
SPED-6230	Assistive Technology: Principles and Practice	3
SPED-6350	Characteristics and Learning Needs of Students with Academic and Physical Challenges	3
SPED-6355	Instructional Strategies for Students with Academic and Physical Challenges	3
SPED-6360	Characteristics and Learning Needs of Students with Specific Learning and Emotional Disabilities	3
SPED-6365	Instructional Strategies for Students with Specific Learning Disabilities and Emotional Disabilities	3
SPED-6370	Curriculum Based and Educational Measurements of Exceptional Learners	3
Total Hours		30

Students must have a grade of C or higher in all master's courses and content coursework for successful program completion.

Required Content Coursework (18 semester hours):

- Grades of C or higher in college-level coursework (not remedial) will fulfill content coursework requirements.

- Content coursework must be completed at regionally accredited institution(s) of higher education and be documented on official transcript(s).
 - 3 semester hours: Writing
 - 3 semester hours: Fine arts or literature
 - 3 semester hours: Mathematics
 - 3 semester hours: Science
 - 3 semester hours: Social studies (American Government or U.S. History)
 - 3 semester hours: Social science (psychology or sociology preferred)

Clinical Experience (Pre-Professional Hours)

- 100 hours (all pre-professional hours are embedded in the MAT coursework).
- Each course will describe the number of hours required to be completed in classrooms and the nature of the experience that a candidate must complete.