

Master of Arts in Education/Special Education









Exceptional students need teachers with extraordinary skills. If you have a bachelor's degree and want to become a special education teacher, our Master of Arts in Education/Special Education could be the program for you.

The program — designed for those with no prior teaching experience or licensure — will introduce you to methods and strategies for classroom instruction while providing a deeper understanding of working with children who are exceptional learners. This curriculum is aligned with the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) and blends academic theory with relevant coursework, field experience and student teaching to help you prepare for a career in special education.

If you're interested in working with exceptional learners, explore the offerings and information below to see how this program can help.

[GET STARTED >](#)[CALL US 866.766.0766 >](#)

Differentiators

 Relevant Curriculum	 Industry Alignment	 Career Preparation
Learn one course at a time through a curriculum that focuses on diagnosis and assessment of disabilities and inclusion strategies.	Gain skills needed to work in special education from courses aligned with national education standards.	Learn strategies and abilities that can help you keep up with the evolving needs of exceptional learners.
 Dedicated Support	 Assessment Preparation	 District Partnerships
Partner with dedicated staff who will help you through state licensures and other credential processes.	Get the support and preparation you need to take the edTPA assessment.	Get help with school placements for clinical work through our close partnership with hundreds of school districts nationwide.

Objectives

The Master of Arts in Education (MAED) with a specialization in Special Education is a graduate degree program preparing candidates for teacher licensure in the field of special education. Candidates for this program have already earned a bachelor's degree and wish to gain the pedagogical skills and knowledge that will assist them in becoming effective special education educators. The program's curriculum includes orientation to the exceptional child, foundations and methodologies of mild disabilities, diagnosis and assessment of disabilities, structured English immersion, reading and language arts instruction, inclusion strategies, and collaboration and resource management for the special educator.

Throughout the program, students are required to complete a minimum of 100 hours of verified field experiences. The focus of each observation will relate to specific course content. Students' field experiences are designed to prepare them for student teaching. Student teaching is an integral component of the Special Education Program. Student teachers work with a cooperating teacher and with a University of Phoenix faculty advisor during a field-based experience in mild to moderate special education setting. The student teaching experience is designed to emphasize the achievement of state standards leading to certification and to present individuals with growth opportunities that best prepare them to assume the duties of a certified teacher.

The Master of Arts in Education/Special Education is a graduate degree program intended for students with no prior teaching experience for initial teacher licensure. The program is designed for students who want to become special education teachers. Candidates for this program have already earned a bachelor's degree. The program includes a clinical component requiring field experiences and student teaching above and beyond program coursework. As licensure requirements may vary by state, it is the student's responsibility to ascertain and meet licensure requirements in any state in which the student desires to practice and to contact the applicable state educator licensure agency to verify current requirements to become a licensed teacher. There may be additional qualifications and/or disqualifications applicable in order to work as a teacher with any local, state or federal entity.

Requirements and Prerequisites

You will need **46** credits to complete this program, which may be earned from a combination of required and elected courses. However, required courses may vary based on previous experience, training or transferable credits. [View additional requirements for licensure](#)

Core Courses

Professional Communications	COM516
Orientation To Teacher Education	MTE507
Curriculum Const And Assmt: Reading And Lang Arts For Spe	RDG570
Structured English Immersion	SEI500
Advanced Structured English Immersion Methods	SEI503
Special Education Assessment And Interpretation	SPE512
Orientation To The Exceptional Child	SPE513
Characteristics Of Emotional & Behavioral Disorders	SPE544
Characteristics Of Physical & Health Disabilities	SPE556
Characteristics Of Intellectual/developmental Disabilities	SPE574
Characteristics Of Autism Spectrum Disorders	SPE576
Special Education Student Teaching: Part A	SPE594
Special Education Student Teaching: Part B	SPE595

Make an informed choice

We believe that students and families should be prepared financially for college and understand gainful employment opportunities before starting any program. So we want to ensure you have the information you need to make an informed choice - information like what it will cost, the skills you'll learn through your chosen program, and the types of occupations the program prepares you for. For important information about the educational debt, earnings, and completion rates of students who attended this program:

To view gainful employment disclosures, please visit:

[View the Master of Arts in Education/Special Education gainful employment disclosures](http://www.phoenix.edu/programs/ge/default/maed-spe.html)
[<http://www.phoenix.edu/programs/ge/default/maed-spe.html>]

This program provides the academic preparation required in most states to sit for initial teacher certification exams.

While widely available, not all programs are available in all locations or in both online and on-campus formats. Please check with a University Enrollment Representative.