Master of Arts in Education/Special Education

Exceptional students need teachers with extraordinary skills. If you’ve earned a bachelor’s degree in another discipline and have been thinking of making a positive impact on students with learning disabilities, start your Master of Arts in Education/Special Education. The curriculum is aligned with the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) and ISTE standards, and helps cultivate strategies for teaching students with disabilities and collaborating to create individualized learning plans.

You won’t be in this alone. Our program support specialist can help you navigate teacher licensure and credentialing requirements. We’ll also help you with school placements for your clinical experience and clinical practice through our close partnerships with hundreds of school districts nationwide.

Top skills learned in this program:

- Curriculum development
- Professionalism
- Special education
- Differentiated instruction
- Innovation
Projected job growth: 

8% 

According to Bureau of Labor Statistics

What can you do with a Master of Arts in Education/Special Education?

A MAEd/SPE can prepare you to be a:

• Special education teacher
• Intervention specialist
• Resource teacher
• Learning support teacher
• Special education inclusion teacher

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, job growth for special education teachers is projected to be slower than average between 2020 and 2030.

BLS projections are not specific to University of Phoenix students or graduates.
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Total credits required:

46

Requirements and prerequisites

You'll need 46 credits to complete this Master of Arts in Education/Special Education. Your course schedule may vary based on previous experience, training or transferable credits.

14 Core Courses

Here's where you'll pick up the bulk of your program-specific knowledge. By the time you finish these courses, you should have the confidence and skills needed in this field.

- MTE/507: Orientation to Teacher Education
- COM/516: Professional Communications
- SPE/513: Orientation to the Exceptional Child
- SPE/578: Models, Theories and Instructional Strategies for SPE
- SPE/584: Learning Disabilities and Language and Development Disorders
- SPE/512: Special Education Assessment and Interpretation
- SPE/576: Characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorders
- SPE/574: Characteristics of Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities
- SPE/544: Characteristics of Emotional & Behavioral Disorders
- SPE/556: Characteristics of Physical & Health Disabilities
- RDG/570: Curriculum Const and Assmt: Reading and Lang Arts for SPE
- SEI/500: Structured English Immersion
- MTH/575: Mathematics Instruction for Special Education
- SEI/503: Advanced Structured English Immersion Methods

2 Clinical Practice/Student Teaching Courses

During your clinical practice experience — one of the final steps to complete your degree — you'll complete a student teaching experience where you will apply your instruction and classroom management skills full time. Working under the supervision of a teacher and a University of Phoenix faculty supervisor, you'll develop lesson plans, teach, work with diverse student populations and incorporate technology into the classroom.

COE Central

College of Education students will find many helpful resources on COE Central. Program handbooks provide a wealth of information on topics such as professional expectations, clinical experiences, clinical practice, internships, edTPA and much more. Milestone roadmaps, technology and multimedia resources, and various toolkits are also available.
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Schedule

Your academic counselor will help you schedule your classes.

Plus, you’ll find support from our dedicated education program specialists who work with you 1:1 during your 100 required hours of clinical experience (or more if required by your state) and a minimum of 12 weeks of clinical practice (or more if required by your state). Our education program specialists also help you navigate your state licensure requirements for teacher certification, and can help with questions along the way.

What you’ll learn

When you earn your online Master of Arts in Education/Special Education, you’ll be equipped with a concrete set of skills you can apply on the job.

You’ll learn how to:

• Design and implement effective instruction in the P-12 classroom to produce a positive impact on student learning.

• Evaluate effective professional practice in special education.

• Apply professional ethics to their instructional practices in special education.

• Create and modify instructional and behavioral plans for a variety of learning needs.

• Create innovative strategies and incorporate technology in a P-12 classroom setting.

Program Purpose Statement

The Master of Arts in Education/Special Education is a graduate degree program intended to prepare 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 already have a bachelor’s degree. There may be additional qualifications and/or disqualifications applicable in order to work as a teacher with any local, state or federal entity. Requirements for licensure vary by state. View your state’s teacher licensure requirements.

The following program educationally prepares students to apply for initial teacher certification in select states:

Master of Arts in Education/Special Education (MAED/SPE).

Educator/Principal licensure requirements vary by state. Candidates located in a state that does not provide a direct path to licensure will be required to obtain Arizona certification first, prior to seeking licensure in their home state as an out-of-state prepared teacher/principal candidate. Arizona certification requires candidates to pass all Arizona-specific licensure requirements, including any Arizona-specific exams (or home state equivalents if recognized by Arizona Department of Education.) After obtaining an Arizona teacher/principal certificate, candidates can then apply for licensure in their home state and may be required to complete additional testing and/or requirements at additional cost. Program requirements may change based upon your home state’s agency licensure requirements. Please visit the teacher licensure page or the principal licensure page for state specific requirements prior to reaching out to your state agency.

*While widely available, not all programs are available to residents of all states. Please check with a University Enrollment Representative.

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