

Approx. program length:

21 months

Credits:

46

Cost per credit:

\$540

[Tuition Guarantee](#)

Format:

Online

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.

You'll learn how to:

- Assess students' strengths and needs
- Understand special education laws and their implications for identification, placement and instruction
- Teach students with a range of disabilities, including behavioral, physical, developmental and the autism spectrum
- Manage a classroom using inclusion strategies

Projected job growth:

3%

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 2018 and 2028.

BLS projections are not specific to University of Phoenix students or graduates.

Institutional accreditation

University of Phoenix is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), hlcommission.org. Since 1978, University of Phoenix has been continually accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and its predecessor.

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 Student Teaching/Clinical Practice courses

During your clinical practice experience — one of the final steps to prepare you to pursue employment in the teaching field — you'll apply your instruction and classroom management skills full time. Working under the supervision of a classroom teacher and a University of Phoenix faculty advisor, you'll develop lesson plans, apply instructional knowledge to your teaching, 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.

Schedule

Your academic counselor will help you schedule your classes.

Plus, you'll find plenty of support from our dedicated program support specialists who partner with you during your 100 required hours of field experience and student teaching. Our program support specialists also help you navigate the world of [state licensure requirements](#), special education teacher certification and any questions or obstacles you encounter 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.

Download learning outcomes

Topics covered in this degree include:

- Design individualized education programs (IEPs) to meet the needs of students with specialized learning needs
- Design and implement effective instruction in the P-12 classroom to produce a positive impact in special education classrooms
- Evaluate effective professional practice in special education classrooms
- Apply professional ethics to their instructional practices in special education classrooms
- Evaluate learning principles to differentiate instruction to meet the needs of diverse special education student populations
- Create innovative strategies and incorporate technology in a special education classroom setting
- Learn how to work in inclusive classrooms and partner with general education teachers

Along with the knowledge and skills related to the University Learning Goals, students who graduate from the College of Education should gain program-specific knowledge, skills and abilities. Each college or school creates a set of Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs) to describe the knowledge, skills or attitudes students will possess upon completion of the program of study. By the time you complete your Master of Arts in Education/Special Education, you should be able to perform these [learning outcomes](#).

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 programs – BSEd/E, BSEd/ECH, MAEd/TED-E, MAEd/TED-S, MAEd/SPE, CERT/AP-E, CERT/AP-S, and CERT/AP-SE – provide the academic preparation to sit for initial teacher certification exams in select states.

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 <https://www.phoenix.edu/colleges/college-of-education/teacher-licensure/state-requirements.html> or the principal licensure page <https://www.phoenix.edu/colleges/college-of-education/principal-licensure.html> for state specific requirements prior to reaching out to your state agency.

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.