

M.ED., SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Master of Education in special education degree program prepares K-12 special educators at the graduate level with specific training in the areas of disabilities, assessment, interventions strategies, current law and the implementation of programs including the development of legally defensible documents related to the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Graduates will have mastery of the Council for Exceptional Children standards for special education teachers: learner development and individual learning differences, learning environments, curricular content knowledge, assessment, instructional planning and strategies, professional learning, and ethical practice and collaboration.

The program will provide individuals who already possess, or are eligible for, a current Alaska teaching certificate or a bachelor's degree and the necessary prerequisites with specific training in the area of special education. The program prepares K-12 special education teachers who can effectively understand state and national education issues and respond appropriately. Special education candidates will progress through a series of developmentally sequenced field experiences for all ages, types and levels of abilities including collaborative opportunities.

An option is available for individuals who are already certified special education teachers or individuals who want the special education knowledge and master's degree to perform professional duties that do not include being a special education classroom instructor. These individuals will not complete special education clinical practice, and no institutional recommendation for special education teacher certification will be issued.

The M.Ed. in special education provides development in collaboration/consultation models and program development in multicultural settings. Completion of this program meets the requirements for Alaska licensure as a K-12 special education teacher. For special education teacher certification in the state of Alaska, a passing score on the Praxis II Special Education: Core Knowledge and Applications test (#5354) is required.

Admission Requirements

The School of Education offers Master of Education degrees in counseling, special education and education. Students in the education major may earn a degree in these areas of specialization: people, place and pedagogy, second language acquisition, bilingual education, and literacy, and online innovation and design. Students completing postbaccalaureate certification in elementary or secondary education may earn an M.Ed. in the respective area. For elementary education, secondary education, special education and counseling majors, refer to specific admission and program requirements listed in the respective sections.

Admission Requirements

Applications will be reviewed on March 1 and Oct. 1 for admission in the following semester. Faculty may vote to admit, not admit or admit with stipulations. Stipulations are specified when additional development in particular areas is needed before beginning a graduate degree program.

Minimum requirements for admission to the M.Ed. program are:

1. Bachelor's degree and a 3.0 GPA.
2. One year of satisfactory teaching or administrative experience. Alternative experience may be accepted.

Complete the following application procedures for the UAF Graduate School:

1. Submit a graduate application to the UAF Office of Admissions.
2. Submit scores on the general GRE if undergraduate GPA is below 3.0.
3. Submit a four- to five-page essay that describes your career goals and educational philosophy, and how those goals and philosophy are relevant to the School of Education's mission and education graduate degree program.
4. Submit official transcripts.
5. Submit three letters of reference.
6. Submit a resume.

For Certified Teachers

Complete the following admission requirements:

- Current Alaska teaching certificate or equivalent coursework towards an Alaska teaching certificate.

Prerequisite or corequisite: EDSE F482 or comparable transfer course from another institution.

For Initial Certification

Complete the following admission requirements:

1. Baccalaureate degree along with the following prerequisites:
 - a. Documented recent experience (minimum of 12 hours) in an educational setting with children experiencing disabilities.
 - b. UAF prerequisite or corequisite courses or comparable transfer courses. Courses may be completed prior to admission or during the program:

Code	Title	Credits
ED F245	Child Development	3
Select one from the following:		
ED F201	Introduction to Education	3
ED F624	Foundations of Education in Alaska: From Segregation to Standards	3
EDSC F205	Introduction to Secondary Education	3
EDSC F415	Foundations of Modern Educational Practice	3
EDSE F482	Inclusive Classrooms for All Children	3

- c. Passing scores on the Praxis Academic Skills for Educators text (or Praxis I) or another test acceptable to the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development before or during the first semester of classes. Current test numbers and minimum scores can be found at the basic competency examination requirement site (<https://education.alaska.gov/teachercertification/praxis/>).
- d. Passing scores on the appropriate Praxis II Exam(s) required before entering EDSE F678. Current test numbers and minimum scores can be found at the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development content area examinations site (<https://>

education.alaska.gov/teachercertification/contentareaexams/). Candidates should consult the employing school district to determine preferred tests based on teaching assignment.

- e. Passing scores on the Special Education: Core Knowledge and Applications Praxis Exam (test #5354) or another test acceptable to the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development before or during EDSE F680. Passing scores are required to complete EDSE F680 and graduate from the Special Education K-12 Postbaccalaureate Certificate of Completion.

Recommended prior to admission or during the program, not required for the degree but for Alaska teacher certification:

1. An Alaska studies course approved by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (<http://education.alaska.gov/teachercertification/>).
2. A multicultural education/cross-cultural communication course approved by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (<http://education.alaska.gov/teachercertification/>).

All prerequisite courses must be completed with a minimum final grade of B.

Program Requirements

Program Requirements for Certified Teachers

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR DEGREE: 36 CREDITS

Code	Title	Credits
General University Requirements		
Complete the general university requirements. (http://catalog.uaf.edu/graduate/mastersdegrees/#generaluniversityrequirements)		
M.Ed. Degree Requirements		
Complete the Master of Education degree requirements. (http://catalog.uaf.edu/graduate/mastersdegrees/#masterofeducation)		
Corequisite Requirements ¹		
EDSE F482	Inclusive Classrooms for All Children	
Certified Teachers Program Requirements		
ED F601	Introduction to Applied Social Science Research	3
EDSE F610	Assessment of Students with Exceptionalities	3
EDSE F612	Curriculum, Management and Strategies I: Low Incidence	3
EDSE F622	Curriculum, Management and Strategies II: High Incidence	3
EDSE F625	Teaching Mathematics to Special Learners	3
EDSE F632	Special Education Law: Principles and Practices	3
EDSE F677	English Language Arts Assessment, Curriculum and Strategies for Special Learners	3
EDSE F680	Special Education Clinical Practice ^{2,3}	3

Complete four from the following elective courses as approved by the candidate's graduate committee:		12
ED F603 or ED/CCS F604	Field Study Research Methods Documenting Indigenous Knowledge	
EDSE F605	Early Childhood Special Education	
EDSE F624	Social/Emotional Development, Assessment and Intervention	
EDSE F633	Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities: Communication and Social Interventions	
EDSE F640	Culturally Responsive Collaboration: Working with Parents, Colleagues and Paraprofessionals	
EDSE F642	Autism Spectrum Disorders and Other Developmental Disabilities: Sensory and Behavioral Interventions	
EDSE F648	Understanding FASD: Diagnosis, Intervention and Strategies	

Complete comprehensive examination⁴

- 1 Complete the corequisite course before or during admittance to the program; or have a comparable transfer course from another university.
- 2 Additional fee required. Charges are added to fee statements every semester.
- 3 Students pursuing a K-12 special education certificate must complete clinical practice in a public school setting.
- 4 Must be enrolled in 3 graduate credits the semester the comprehensive exam is completed.

Program Requirements for Initial Certification

Minimum Requirements for Degree: 39 credits

Code	Title	Credits
General University Requirements		
Complete the general university requirements. (http://catalog.uaf.edu/graduate/)		
Master of Education Degree Requirements		
Complete the Master of Education degree requirements. (http://catalog.uaf.edu/graduate/mastersdegrees/#typesofmastersdegreestext)		
Corequisite Requirements ¹		
ED F245	Child Development	
EDSE F482	Inclusive Classrooms for All Children	
Complete one of the following:		
ED F201	Introduction to Education	
ED F624	Foundations of Education in Alaska: From Segregation to Standards	
EDSC F205	Introduction to Secondary Education	
EDSC F415	Foundations of Modern Educational Practice	
Initial Certification Program Requirements		
ED F601	Introduction to Applied Social Science Research	3

EDSE F610	Assessment of Students with Exceptionalities	3
EDSE F612	Curriculum, Management and Strategies I: Low Incidence	3
EDSE F622	Curriculum, Management and Strategies II: High Incidence	3
EDSE F625	Teaching Mathematics to Special Learners	3
EDSE F632	Special Education Law: Principles and Practices	3
EDSE F677	English Language Arts Assessment, Curriculum and Strategies for Special Learners	3
EDSE F678	Special Education Clinical Practice: Initial ²	3
EDSE F680	Special Education Clinical Practice ^{2,3}	3
Complete four from the following elective courses as approved by the candidate's graduate committee:		12
ED F603 or ED/CCS F604	Field Study Research Methods Documenting Indigenous Knowledge	
EDSE F605	Early Childhood Special Education	
EDSE F624	Social/Emotional Development, Assessment and Intervention	
EDSE F633	Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities: Communication and Social Interventions	
EDSE F640	Culturally Responsive Collaboration: Working with Parents, Colleagues and Paraprofessionals	
EDSE F642	Autism Spectrum Disorders and Other Developmental Disabilities: Sensory and Behavioral Interventions	
EDSE F648	Understanding FASD: Diagnosis, Intervention and Strategies	

Complete comprehensive examination⁴

- ¹ Complete the corequisite courses before or during admittance to the program; or have comparable transfer courses from another university.
- ² Additional fee required. Charges are added to fee statements every semester.
- ³ Students pursuing a K-12 special education certificate must complete clinical practice in a public school setting.
- ⁴ Must be enrolled in 3 graduate credits the semester the comprehensive exam is completed.

Program Requirements for M.Ed. Degree Without Certification

Minimum Requirements for Degree: 36 credits

Code	Title	Credits
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General University Requirements

Complete the general university requirements.
(<http://catalog.uaf.edu/graduate/mastersdegrees/#generaluniversityrequirementstext>)

Master of Education Degree Requirements

Complete the Master of Education degree requirements.
(<http://catalog.uaf.edu/graduate/mastersdegrees/#masterofeducationtext>)

Corequisite Requirements¹

EDSE F482	Inclusive Classrooms for All Children	
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M.Ed. Degree Without Certification Program Requirements

ED F601	Introduction to Applied Social Science Research	3
EDSE F610	Assessment of Students with Exceptionalities	3
EDSE F612	Curriculum, Management and Strategies I: Low Incidence	3
EDSE F622	Curriculum, Management and Strategies II: High Incidence	3
EDSE F625	Teaching Mathematics to Special Learners	3
EDSE F632	Special Education Law: Principles and Practices	3
EDSE F677	English Language Arts Assessment, Curriculum and Strategies for Special Learners	3

Complete five from the following elective courses as approved by the candidate's graduate committee: 15

ED F603 or ED/CCS F604	Field Study Research Methods Documenting Indigenous Knowledge	
EDSE F605	Early Childhood Special Education	
EDSE F624	Social/Emotional Development, Assessment and Intervention	
EDSE F633	Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities: Communication and Social Interventions	
EDSE F640	Culturally Responsive Collaboration: Working with Parents, Colleagues and Paraprofessionals	
EDSE F642	Autism Spectrum Disorders and Other Developmental Disabilities: Sensory and Behavioral Interventions	
EDSE F648	Understanding FASD: Diagnosis, Intervention and Strategies	

Complete comprehensive examination²

- ¹ Complete the corequisite course before or during admittance to the program; or have a comparable transfer course from another university.
- ² Must be enrolled in 3 graduate credits the semester the comprehensive exam is completed.