

SPECIAL EDUCATION, MASTER OF ARTS IN EDUCATION

Offered by Department of Teacher Education (<http://catalog.unk.edu/graduate/departments/teacher-education/>)

Program Information and Admission Requirements

The degree in Special Education requires four core classes covering the areas of research, democracy, diversity, and technology in accordance with the renewed focus of the College of Education. The program is 36 credit hours; however, additional credit hours may be needed for state certification in some endorsement areas.

Admission requirements include GPA and either the Graduate Record Examination or a Professional Biography. Teacher certification is required for this master's program.

The Special Education program offers three emphasis areas described below: Advanced Practitioner, High Ability Education (Gifted), and Special Education.

- *Advanced Practitioner* is designed to extend the expertise of educators with a teaching credential in one or more areas of special education. There are four possible emphasis areas in the Advanced Practitioner program: Behavior Intervention Specialist, Inclusion and Collaboration Specialist, Functional Academic Skills and Independent Living Specialist, and Assistive Technology Specialist. The first three include the required hours necessary for a state Supplementary Endorsement in each area. Assistive Technology does not lead to a supplementary endorsement.
- *High Ability Education (Gifted)* is designed to prepare educators with the knowledge base and competencies necessary for the appropriate education of gifted and talented learners. It includes the 18 credit hours necessary for the state Supplementary Endorsement in High Ability Education.
- *Special Education Generalist* is designed to lead to initial certification in special education. This applies to teachers certified in a field of education other than special education. Completion of the undergraduate professional sequence is required in addition to the master's classes for individuals who do not have degree in education.

Successful completion of a comprehensive examination/project is required prior to graduation. There are three parts:

1. Program examination/project
2. Departmental examination, and
3. College of Education survey of Desired Outcomes.

Contact your adviser at least one semester in advance of your planned graduation. Additionally, you must apply for graduation in the first few weeks of the semester in which you intend to graduate even if you will not attend.

High Ability Education (Gifted), Advanced Practitioner, Special Education Emphases

These programs are offered online only.

All students are required to complete an exit survey during the semester of graduation or program completion.

Department Core Courses

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Research Course		
TE 800	Education Research	3
Democracy		
TE 803	Philosophy of Education	3
Diversity		
TE 804	Curriculum Development in Multicultural Education	3
Technology		
TE 805P or TE 886P	Overview of Assistive Technology ¹ Technology Tools for Teachers	3
Emphasis Area		
Select an Emphasis Areas:		24
High Ability Education (Gifted) (p. 1)		
Advanced Practitioner (p. 2)		
Special Education (p. 3)		
Total Credit Hours		36

Emphasis Areas

Select one of the following:

High Ability Education (Gifted)

This program focuses on developing instruction for high ability (gifted) learners. Students (program completers) may choose to pursue a supplemental teaching endorsement in High Ability Education. This endorsement requires a person to have, or earn concurrently, an endorsement in a subject or field.

High Ability Education (Gifted) - Non-Thesis ²

Code	Title	Credit Hours
CSP 800	Advanced Educational Psychology	3
TESE 816C	Practicum in Gifted/Talented Education	3
TESE 822P	Psychology & Education of Gifted & Talented Learners	3
TESE 823P	Guiding the Social & Emotional Development of Gifted/Talented Learners	3
TESE 824	Identification, Assessment, & Evaluation of High Ability Learners	3
TESE 825	Curriculum Design & Development for High Ability Education	3
TESE 826	Program Design for High Ability Education	3
Electives		3
Total Credit Hours		24

High Ability Education (Gifted) - Thesis²

Code	Title	Credit Hours
TE 896	Thesis ³	6
TESE 816C	Practicum in Gifted/Talented Education	3
TESE 822P	Psychology & Education of Gifted & Talented Learners	3
TESE 823P	Guiding the Social & Emotional Development of Gifted/Talented Learners	3
TESE 824	Identification, Assessment, & Evaluation of High Ability Learners	3
TESE 825	Curriculum Design & Development for High Ability Education	3
TESE 826	Program Design for High Ability Education	3
Total Credit Hours		24

Advanced Practitioner**Advanced Practitioner - Behavior Intervention Specialist Emphasis⁴**

This program focuses on developing programs and instruction related to behavioral intervention. Students may choose to pursue a supplemental teaching endorsement as a Special Education Behavior Intervention Specialist. This endorsement requires to have, or earn concurrently, an endorsement in special education OR if certified to teach in another area, take an additional 12 graduate hours of special education coursework.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Special Education Core		
TESE 816D	Practicum in Special Education (Practicum will concentrate in the area of emphasis chosen for electives.) ⁵	3
TESE 880	Critical Issues in Special Education	3
Behavior Intervention Specialist Emphasis		
TESE 867	Functional Behavior Assessment and Behavior Intervention Planning	3
TESE 879P	Teaching Social Skills to Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder	3
TESE 881	Characteristics and Identification of Behavior and Learning Disabilities	3
TESE 882	Applied Behavior Analysis	3
TESE 883	Intervention Strategies for Individuals with Behavioral & Emotional Disabilities	3
TESE 888	Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports	3
Total Credit Hours		24

Advanced Practitioner - Inclusion and Collaboration Specialist Emphasis⁴

This program focuses on developing instructional programs fostering inclusive education practices through collaboration for students with disabilities. Students (program completers) may choose to pursue a supplemental teaching endorsement as a Special Education Inclusion and Collaboration Specialist. This endorsement requires a person to have, or earn concurrently, an endorsement in special education.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Special Education Core		
TESE 816D	Practicum in Special Education ⁵	3

TESE 880	Critical Issues in Special Education	3
Inclusion and Collaboration Specialist Emphasis		
TESE 840	Bilingual Special Education	3
TESE 863	Research-Based Instructional Strategies for Students with Disabilities	3
TESE 867	Functional Behavior Assessment and Behavior Intervention Planning	3
TESE 881	Characteristics and Identification of Behavior and Learning Disabilities	3
TESE 885	Inclusion and Differentiation Strategies for the 21st Century Classroom	3
TESE 886	Co-Teaching & Collaborative Services	3
Total Credit Hours		24

Advanced Practitioner - Assistive Technology Specialist Emphasis

This program focuses on developing effective assistive technology service delivery for persons with disabilities. This program does not require teacher certification and does not lead to a Nebraska Endorsement. Individuals may choose to pursue the Assistive Technology Practitioner credential through RESNA.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Special Education Core		
TESE 816D	Practicum in Special Education ⁵	3
TESE 880	Critical Issues in Special Education	3
Assistive Technology Specialist Emphasis		
TE 829	Implementing Universal Design for Learning in School Settings	3
TESE 885	Inclusion and Differentiation Strategies for the 21st Century Classroom	3
TESE 891	Assistive Technology Assessment	3
TESE 892	Augmentative Alternative Communication	3
TESE 893	Program Development in Assistive Technology	3
TESE 894	Research in Assistive Technology	3
Total Credit Hours		24

Advanced Practitioner - Functional Academic Skills and Independent Living Specialist Emphasis

This program focuses on developing instructional programs focused on functional academic and independent living skills for students with disabilities. Students (program completers) may choose to pursue a supplemental teaching endorsement as a Special Education Functional Academic Skills and Independent Living Specialist. This endorsement requires a person to have, or earn concurrently, an endorsement in special education.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Special Education Core		
TESE 816D	Practicum in Special Education ⁵	3
TESE 880	Critical Issues in Special Education	3
Functional Academic Skills and Independent Living Specialist Emphasis		
TESE 887P	Teaching Functional Academics to Individuals with Exceptional Needs	3

TESE 876P	Transitional Issues for Individuals with Disabilities	3
TESE 879P	Teaching Social Skills to Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder	3
TESE 882	Applied Behavior Analysis	3
TESE 885	Inclusion and Differentiation Strategies for the 21st Century Classroom	3
TESE 892	Augmentative Alternative Communication	3
Total Credit Hours		24

- ¹ TE 805P is recommended.
- ² Prerequisite - Introduction to Exceptionalities or equivalent completed at the undergraduate or graduate level.
- ³ Students always have the option of completing a thesis. Students will register for TE 896 for six credit hours based on the recommendation of their advisor. These six credit hours will be in lieu of the elective and CSP 800.
- ⁴ This emphasis area results in a NDE supplemental endorsement.
- ⁵ Practicum will concentrate in the area of emphasis chosen for electives.
- ⁶ Students also wishing to pursue an additional endorsement or initial certification should consult with an advisor.

Special Education Generalist ⁶

This program focuses on developing the skills necessary for delivering high-quality K-6 or 7-12 special education instruction. Students (program completers) may choose to pursue an additional teaching endorsement as a Special Education Generalist. This endorsement requires a person to possess previous teaching certification.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Prerequisites		
TESE 330	Collaboration, Consultation, and Co-Teaching	3
or TESE 830	Consult & Collaboration with Families & Agencies Serv Individuals with Disabilities	
TESE 437	Medical Aspects of Individuals with Disabilities	3
or TESE 837P	Medical Aspects of Individuals with Disabilities	

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Requirements		
TESE 861	Legal Issues in Special Education	3
TESE 862	Formal and Informal Assessment in Special Education	3
TESE 863	Research-Based Instructional Strategies for Students with Disabilities	3
TESE 867	Functional Behavior Assessment and Behavior Intervention Planning	3
TESE 879P	Teaching Social Skills to Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder	3
Select one of the following options:		6
<i>K-6 Emphasis</i>		
TESE 872 & TESE 873	Strategies for Teaching Students with Intellectual Disabilities and Teaching Students with Multiple Disabilities	
or		
<i>7-12 Emphasis</i>		
TESE 875P & TESE 876P	Preparing Adolescents for the Post-Secondary World and Transitional Issues for Individuals with Disabilities	
TESE 816D	Practicum in Special Education ⁵	3
Total Credit Hours		24