

SPECIAL EDUCATION, M.A.

Special education graduate programs are designed to bring improvements to the educational services accorded to exceptional children. Courses of study leading to the Master of Arts (MA) degree and Class A professional educator certification in the education of exceptional children are listed below:

Class A certification programs are available in

- autism
- collaborative education
- early childhood special education
- gifted
- severe disabilities

Additionally, an Overseas master's degree program in Special Education is available to overseas students. The Overseas Program does not lead to professional licensure or certification.

While the Graduate Catalog is published annually, program checklists for state-approved certification programs may be updated more frequently and are thus likely to provide the most up-to-date information about requirements. Students should refer to the appropriate program checklists for their teaching fields and consult their advisors before registering each semester.

Admissions

In addition to the minimum Graduate School admission requirements, to be considered for regular admission an application must be aware of the admission requirements established by the Alabama State Department of Education.

See the Admission Criteria section of this catalog for more information.

Traditional Class A Certification Programs

For admission to traditional Class A programs of study in collaborative education, early childhood special education, or gifted and talented education, the appropriate prior certification must be held in a teaching field.

For admission to the Class A program of study in severe disabilities, the appropriate prior certification must be held in an appropriate area of special education.

For admission to the Class A program of study in autism, the prior certification must be held in an appropriate area of special education.

Three recommendations are required. (Applicants to a College of Education program that leads to professional certification must submit references from current and former professors and/or supervisory personnel knowledgeable of the applicant's academic and professional capabilities.)

Applicants must also meet the fingerprinting requirement for background clearance.

Admission to the Graduate School is not equivalent to "unconditional admission" to a state-approved educator preparation program.

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Non-Certification Overseas Program for Special Education, MA

In addition to the minimum Graduate School admission requirements, three recommendations are required.

Curricular Requirements

Autism, Class A

This course listing applies to candidates having appropriate prior certification in an area of special education. Candidates earning graduate credit prior to this date may elect to utilize this program. Candidates must present a GPA of at least 3.25 on all courses in the program, with no grade below a C. Passing scores on the appropriate Praxis subject assessment(s) are required if changing areas of certification.

Code and Title	Hours
Required Courses	
SPE 531 Intro to ASD	3
Choose ONE of the following:	3
SPE 504 Intro to Assistive Technology	
SPE 520 Early Language and Literacy	
Foundations of Professional Studies	
Select one of the following:	
BEF 503 History Of Amer Educn	
BEF 507 Sociology Of Education	
BEF 534 Multicultural Education	
BEF 575 Found Educn Through Film	
BEF 607 Readings In Soc Of Ed	
BEF 639 Educ Theory And Policy	
BEP 500 Adv Educational Psych	
BEP 505 Motivation and Self-Regulation	
BEP 541 Learning and Cognition	
BEP 550 Life Span Development	
BEP 565 Personality & Social Dev	
BEP 570 Found. of Ed. Neuroscience	
BEP 600 Contemp Educ Psych Prob	
BEP 601 Family, Sch., Community Relat.	
Educational Research	
SPE 501 Diag Assess Except Chld Youth	3
Technology	
CAT 531 Computer Based Instruction	3
Teaching Field	
SPE 502 Adv Behav Mgt Spec Educt *	3
SPE 532 EBP for Ind ASD	3
SPE 533 Assessing Behavior Change	3
SPE 588 Autism Practicum	3
Additional Requirements	
Advisor-approved course related to content/special focus area	3
SPE 500 is also required if a special education survey course was not completed as part of the undergraduate program or another graduate program.	0-3
Total Hours	30-33

Footnotes

* State-approved diversity course

Collaborative (K-6), Class A

This course listing applies to candidates having appropriate prior certification who begin this program June 1, 2017. Candidates earning graduate credit prior to this date may elect to utilize this program. Candidates must present a GPA of at least 3.25 on all courses in the program, with no grade below a C. Passing scores on the appropriate Praxis subject assessment(s) are required if changing areas of certification.

Code and Title	Hours
Curriculum and Teaching:	
SPE 502 Adv Behav Mgt Spec Educt *	3
SPE 503 Masters Seminar In Spe	3
SPE 514 Teach Consult Model Spe	3
Foundations of Professional Studies:	
(Choose ONE of these SDE approved diversity courses.)	3
BEF 503 History Of Amer Educn	
BEF 507 Sociology Of Education	
BEF 534 Multicultural Education	
BEF 575 Found Educn Through Film	
BEF 607 Readings In Soc Of Ed	
BEF 650 Critical Race Theory In Educ	
BEF 667 Multicult Soc Ed Leadershp	
BEF 681 Ethics And Education	
Educational Research:	
SPE 501 Diag Assess Except Chld Youth	3
Technology:	
CAT 531 Computer Based Instruction	3
Teaching Field:	
SPE 591 Adv Academc Methods Elem	3
SPE 594 Methods Severe Disabilty	3
SPE 596 Collaborative Practicum	3
Choose ONE of the following:	3
SPE 583 Creative Prob Solving	
CRD 510 Expanding Reading	
CRD 511 Begin Rding Pre-K-Prim Grades	
CEE 580 Concepts of EC/ELE School Math	
CEE 581 Early Child/Elem Math Curr Res	
Additional requirements:	
SPE 590 Intro Mild Disabilities	3
SPE 593 Intro Severe/Profound Disabili	3
SPE 500 is required if a special education survey course (or the following MAP courses: 311, 312, 413 and 414) was not completed as part of the undergraduate program or another graduate program.	0-3
Total Hours	36-39

Footnotes

* SDE approved diversity course

Collaborative (6-12), Class A

This course listing applies to candidates having appropriate prior certification who begin this program June 1, 2017. Candidates earning

graduate credit prior to this date may elect to utilize this program. Candidates must present a GPA of at least 3.25 on all courses in the program, with no grade below a C. Passing scores on the appropriate Praxis subject assessment(s) are required if changing areas of certification.

Code and Title	Hours
Curriculum and Teaching:	
SPE 502 Adv Behav Mgt Spec Educt *	3
SPE 503 Masters Seminar In Spe	3
SPE 514 Teach Consult Model Spe	3
Foundations of Professional Studies:	
(Choose ONE of these SDE approved diversity courses.)	3
BEF 503 History Of Amer Educn	
BEF 507 Sociology Of Education	
BEF 534 Multicultural Education	
BEF 575 Found Educn Through Film	
BEF 607 Readings In Soc Of Ed	
BEF 650 Critical Race Theory In Educ	
BEF 667 Multicult Soc Ed Leadershp	
BEF 681 Ethics And Education	
Educational Research:	
SPE 501 Diag Assess Except Chld Youth	3
Technology:	
CAT 531 Computer Based Instruction	3
Teaching Field:	
SPE 592 Adv Academc Methods Sec	3
SPE 594 Methods Severe Disability	3
SPE 597 Transition In Special Ed	3
SPE 596 Collaborative Practicum	3
Additional requirements/electives:	
SPE 590 Intro Mild Disabilities	3
SPE 593 Intro Severe/Profound Disabili	3
SPE 500 is required if a special education survey course (or the following MAP courses: 311, 312, 413, and 414) was not completed as part of the undergraduate program or another graduate program.	0-3
Total Hours	36-39

Footnotes

* SDE approved diversity course

Early Childhood Special Education (P-3), Class A

This course listing applies to candidates having appropriate prior certification who begin this program June 1, 2017. Candidates earning graduate credit prior to this date may elect to utilize this program. Candidates must present a GPA of at least 3.25 on all courses in the program, with no grade below a C. Passing scores on the appropriate Praxis subject assessment(s) are required if changing areas of certification.

Code and Title	Hours
Required courses:	
SPE 571 Educ Yng Child W/Disabl	3
SPE 572 Early Childhood Development	3
Foundations of Professional Studies:	
(Choose ONE of these SDE approved diversity courses.)	3

BEF 503	History Of Amer Educn	
BEF 507	Sociology Of Education	
BEF 534	Multicultural Education	
BEF 575	Found Educn Through Film	
BEF 607	Readings In Soc Of Ed	
BEF 650	Critical Race Theory In Educ	
BEF 667	Multicult Soc Ed Leadershp	
BEF 681	Ethics And Education	

Educational Research:

SPE 576	Assessment Young Childrn	3
BER 550	is also required if an evaluation and learning course was not part of the undergraduate program or another graduate program.	0-3

Technology:

CAT 531	Computer Based Instruction	3
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Teaching Field:

SPE 502	Adv Behav Mgt Spec Educt *	3
SPE 578	Meth Tch Yng Child W/Dis	3
SPE 575	ECSE Practicum	6

Additional requirements/electives:

(Choose ONE of the following or another advisor approved elective.) 3

CRD 511	Begin Rding Pre-K-Prim Grades	
CEE 580	Concepts of EC/ELE School Math	
CEE 581	Early Child/Elem Math Curr Res	

SPE 500 is required if a special education survey course was not completed as part of the undergraduate program or another graduate program. 0-3

Total Hours 30-36

Footnotes

* SDE approved diversity course

Gifted (P-12), Class A

This course listing applies to candidates having appropriate prior certification who begin this program June 1, 2017. Candidates earning graduate credit prior to this date may elect to utilize this program. Candidates must present a GPA of at least 3.25 on all courses in the program, with no grade below a C. Passing scores on the appropriate Praxis subject assessment are required.

Code and Title	Hours
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Required courses:

SPE 582	Teach Gifted And Taltd	3
SPE 583	Creative Prob Solving	3

Foundations of Professional Studies:

(Choose ONE of these SDE approved diversity courses.) 3

BEF 503	History Of Amer Educn	
BEF 507	Sociology Of Education	
BEF 534	Multicultural Education	
BEF 575	Found Educn Through Film	
BEF 607	Readings In Soc Of Ed	
BEF 650	Critical Race Theory In Educ	
BEF 667	Multicult Soc Ed Leadershp	
BEF 681	Ethics And Education	

Educational Research:

BER 500	Intro Educatn Research	3
SPE 501	is also required if an assessment/evaluation course was not part of the undergraduate program or another graduate program.	0-3

Teaching Field:

SPE 581	Psy Gift Tal Chld Yth	3
SPE 584	Spec Populatn Gift Educ *	3
SPE 585	Teaching Thinking Skills	3
SPE 589 **		3
SPE 589	or 3 hours from a previous Class A certification program	3

Additional requirements/electives:

Advisor approved elective in content or special interest area (counseling, geography, space science workshop, children's literature, etc.) 3

SPE 500 is required if a special education survey course was not completed as part of the undergraduate program or another graduate program. 0-3

Total Hours 30-36

Footnotes

* SDE approved diversity course

** Total internship hours of at least 300 clock hours at the P-12 level are required.

Severe Disabilities, Class A

This course listing applies to candidates having appropriate prior certification who begin this program June 1, 2017. Candidates earning graduate credit prior to this date may elect to utilize this program. Candidates must present a GPA of at least 3.25 on all courses in the program, with no grade below a C.

Code and Title	Hours
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Required courses:

SPE 593	Intro Severe/Profound Disabili	3
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Foundations of Professional Studies:

SPE 506	Working W/Families	3
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Educational Research:

SPE 501	Diag Assess Except Chld Youth	3
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Technology:

CAT 531	Computer Based Instruction	3
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Teaching Field:

SPE 502	Adv Behav Mgt Spec Educt *	3
SPE 514	Teach Consult Model Spe	3
SPE 594	Methods Severe Disabilty	3
SPE 597	Transition In Special Ed	3

Additional requirements:

SPE 595 Severe Practicum 3

Additional courses from advisor approved cognate (Early, Autism, Assist Tech, Transition) 6

SPE 500 is required if a special education survey course was not part of the undergraduate program or another graduate program. 0-3

Total Hours 33-36

Non-Certification Overseas Program for Special Education, MA

This is a non-certification program offered only to overseas students. Completion of this program does not lead to professional educator licensure or certification.

A minimum of 30 hours of course credit must be earned, and a comprehensive exam must be successfully completed. Candidates must present a GPA of at least 3.25 on all courses in the program, with no grade below a C.

Code and Title	Hours
Group I Special Education Courses	
AREA 1. Required Courses. Students select either SPE 500 or SPE 571.	3
SPE 500 or Intro Exc Childr/Youth	
SPE 571 Educ Yng Child W/Disabl	
AREA 2. Program Specifics	
SPE 501 Diag Assess Except Chld Youth	3
SPE 502 Adv Behav Mgt Spec Educat	3
SPE 503 Masters Seminar In Spe	3
SPE 506 Working W/Families	3
SPE 514 Teach Consult Model Spe	3
AREA 3. Educational Research	
BER 500 Intro Educatn Research	3
	Credit Hours Subtotal: 21
Group II: Electives	
Students select THREE courses from the list below. Students may also choose courses not taken from the Group I list above or courses specifically approved by the Office of International Programs.	9
BCE 514 Counseling Skills	
BCE 542 Med Aspects	
BEF 534 Multicultural Education	
BER 550 Eval Classroom Learning	
CIE 577 Second Language Acquisition	
CIE 579 Tch English For Lang Prog/Pol	
CRD 510 Expanding Reading	
CRD 511 Begin Rding Pre-K-Prim Grades	
CRD 512 Impr Read Second Schools	
Total Hours	30

Transfer Credit

For Traditional Class A programs, credits used for previous Class B certification(s) may not be used for the Class A program.

Graduate School information on Transfer Credit.

Comprehensive Exam

Students complete a comprehensive examination during their last semester of coursework. Dates for comprehensive examinations are announced at the beginning of each semester. Students must be registered for at least one hour in order to take comprehensive examinations per graduate school policy. Comprehensive examination responses are subject to evaluation for plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty as outlined in the code of student conduct.

Graduate School information on Comprehensive Exams.

Fieldwork/Practicum/Internship Requirements

Clinical Placements

All Class A programs require extensive field experiences in diverse settings. The majority of field experiences must occur in P-12 schools, and at least half of the field experiences shall be in the candidate's teaching field.

Professional Liability

Students enrolled in College of Education courses that require a clinical placement should have professional liability insurance. Professional liability insurance may be purchased through an independent insurer or is available to students who are members of the Student Alabama Education Association (SAEA).

Time Limit for Degree Completion

Graduate School information on Time Limits.

Additional Academic Requirements

Electronic Learning Management System Requirement

A designated, electronic learning management system is required of all students in programs leading to professional educator certification.

Academic Misconduct Information

Graduate School information on Academic Misconduct.

Withdrawals and Leave of Absence Information

Graduate School information on Withdrawals and Leave of Absence.

Academic Grievances Information

Graduate School information on Academic Grievances.

Grades and Academic Standing

As required for traditional Class A certification, students must earn a GPA of at least 3.25 on all courses in the program, with no grade below a C.

A student completing requirements for a master's degree during a semester or summer session who does not need a full class load to meet those requirements may, with approval of the advisor and department head, register for additional courses toward a Class AA professional educator certificate, not to exceed the maximum prescribed class load.

Graduate School information on Grades and Academic Standing.

Graduate School Deadlines

Information on Graduate School Deadlines.

Application for Graduation

Information on the Application for Graduation.

Certification

The Alabama State Department of Education grants Class A professional educator certification in special education (autism; collaborative, K-6; collaborative, 6-12; early childhood special education, P-3; gifted, P-12; or severe disabilities, P-12). The Associate Dean for Student Services in the College of Education has been designated as the teacher certification officer for The University. Students who need information

about or assistance with certification should consult the associate dean for student services.

To be eligible for Class A certification, candidates must hold appropriate prerequisite certification and must successfully complete all requirements for the MA degree in the chosen program as described in this catalog, including a comprehensive assessment, state assessments (if applicable), and *Praxis* subject assessment(s) (if applicable). It is important to remember that the awarding of a master's or higher degree does not necessarily imply that the student is eligible for Class A certification.

To be awarded Alabama Class A certification, students must:

- maintain a GPA of at least 3.25 on all courses with no grade below a C,
- receive a passing score on a comprehensive assessment covering the content of the curriculum (MA seeking candidates only),
- earn a passing score on the required *Praxis* subject assessment(s), if applicable
- earn a passing score on Foundations of Reading 190, if applicable.

Students must complete the proper application form(s) for Alabama certification. Forms are available online through the Alabama State Department of Education. Applications should be submitted to Student Services in 104 Carmichael Hall during the student's last semester. An individual who completes an Alabama State-approved program must submit an application for Alabama certification within 60 calendar months of the program completion date. A student who does not apply for professional licensure within 60 months after completing the state-approved program will be required to meet the current program. The Class A certificate is valid for five years and may be renewed according to regulations of the Alabama State Department of Education. Individuals are responsible for meeting renewal requirements and submitting the application for renewal.

Students who plan to teach in other states must secure the proper professional licensure application forms from those states' departments of education. Students planning to teach outside the state of Alabama are held personally responsible for knowledge of professional licensure requirements in those states.

According to Alabama regulations, individuals admitted to a Class A program based on a professional educator certificate from another state must earn the prerequisite Alabama certification before applying for Alabama Class A (master's level) certification.

The certification programs of the department have been designed to fulfill current requirements of the Alabama State Department of Education. The state requirements change from time to time and, accordingly, the department's requirements and programs are subject to change.