

SPECIAL EDUCATION, MASTER OF EDUCATION

The Master of Education in Special Education is one of the most versatile graduate degrees offered at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. The Special Education program offers students a broad understanding within the theoretical and practical constructs which support practices for children with special needs. The program emphasizes practical application of knowledge gained while encouraging current research analysis. The program goal is intended for graduates to develop the skills to engage in issues of advocacy.

The Special Education professional will be afforded various opportunities to work with students, their families, other professionals and the community to enable students with special needs to become productive members of society. Therefore, this program focuses on developing the skills and thought processes of both certified and non-certified professionals who work with the spectrum of children with special needs.

Admissions

Graduate Admission Categories

Unconditional Admission

For unconditional admission, applicants must have:

1. an undergraduate cumulative grade point average between 2.60-2.99 or an undergraduate grade point average of 3.00 or higher for the last 60 semester credits (or 90 quarter credits), and a minimum GRE composite (Q+V) score of 297 (1000 for tests taken prior to August 2011), or a minimum MAT score of 388 (MAT scores are for Education majors only),
or
2. an undergraduate cumulative grade point average between 3.00-4.00 and a minimum GRE composite (Q+V) score of 285 (800 for tests taken prior to August 2011) or minimum MAT score of 388 (MAT scores are for Education majors only).

Conditional Admission

Applicants who do not meet the GPA/GRE (or GPA/MAT) requirement may be conditionally admitted and will be allowed to take program specified required coursework. Students will be unconditionally admitted after successfully completing their first semester with a grade point average of 3.0 or above and by maintaining a GPA of 3.0 or above on all A&M-San Antonio graduate courses.

Requirements

Program Details

The Master of Education in Special Education requires a minimum of thirty (30-33) hours of graduate coursework. The degree affords the student a choice of three specialization areas: Assessment (Educational Diagnostician Certification), Instructional Specialist, and an Autism/Emotional Behavioral Disorder focus. A "certificate only" plan is also available for professional educators who have a Master's Degree in special education or a closely related field and wish to seek TEA certification as an Educational Diagnostician. The capstone experience for the Master of Education in Special Education is the completion of one of two options:

- a **Graduate Research Project** in their EDSE 5301 Research in Spec Education course, or
- **Thesis (which is an additional 6 hour requirement).**

Additional coursework may be required depending on the option selected. All students, regardless of the capstone experience option chosen, will develop an e-portfolio that documents content proficiency. Candidates seeking certification as an Educational Diagnostician must request an application from the Educator Preparation Program during their first semester of graduate studies.

Prerequisites

Students who apply to the Masters of Education in Special Education program should have a broad base in one or more of the following areas:

- Special Education
- Education
- Child Growth and Development
- Curriculum and Instruction

Course Load

Normal course loads consist of 6-9 hours per semester with a minimum grade of "B" required for all courses. Only grades of "A" or "B" will be accepted toward this degree. Candidates for the Master of Education degree in Special Education must earn a minimum of 30 semester credit hours and maintain a minimum overall GPA of 3.0. Students must submit a comprehensive portfolio that follows the given template **during the semester of the completion of** coursework, as part of the requirements for graduation with the Master of Education degree in Special Education.

Instructional Specialist Track

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
EDSE 5321	Accom Diverse Pop in Classroom	3
EDSE 5326	Behav Aspects of Clss Org & Mgt	3
EDSE 5325	Development & Disability	3
EDSE 5322	Ed Test & Measure of Exc Lrnr	3
EDSE 5324	Dsgn Instr & Behav Pgr Sp Pop	3
EDSE 5327	Fed Leg, Litigation & Advocacy	3
EDSE 5301	Research in Spec Education (Fall/Spring only)	3
EDSE 5309	Special Problems	3
EDSE 5354	Emotional Behavior Disorders	3
Additional Coursework		
Select 3 hours of additional coursework ¹		3
Total Credits		30

- ¹ The program allows students to customize their electives in the specialty/support fields listed below to achieve their academic/career endeavors. Additional coursework may include Thesis hours.
- Early Childhood
 - Counseling
 - Educational Administration
 - Literacy (recommend Dyslexia course)
 - Bilingual/English as a Second Language

Assessment Focus (Educational Diagnostician)

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
EDSE 5322	Ed Test & Measure of Exc Lrnr	3
EDSE 5324	Dsgn Instr & Behav Pgr Sp Pop	3
EDSE 5325	Development & Disability	3
EDSE 5326	Behav Aspcts of Clss Org & Mgt	3
EDSE 5327	Fed Leg, Litigation & Advocacy	3
EDSE 5355	Assmnt & Ed Proc Low Incid Pop	3
EDSE 5374	Ed & Psych Measurement & Eval	3
EDSE 5375	Spec Ed Assessment Practicum ²	3
EDSE 5301	Research in Spec Education	3
Additional Coursework ⁴		
Select six hours of additional coursework ¹		6
EDSE 5376	Ind Psych & Educational Eval ³	
Total Credits		33

¹ The program allows students to customize their electives in the specialty/support fields listed below to achieve their academic/career endeavors. Additional coursework may include Thesis hours.

- Bilingual/English as a Second Language
- Early Childhood
- Counseling
- Educational Administration
- Special Education

² May be repeated for credit

³ Required as an elective if candidate does not have equivalent

⁴ EDSE 5321 Accom Diverse Pop in Classroom is required as an elective if candidate does not have equivalent.

Autism/Emotional Behavior Disorder Focus

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
EDSE 5309	Special Problems (Professional Collaboration)	3
EDSE 5322	Ed Test & Measure of Exc Lrnr	3
EDSE 5324	Dsgn Instr & Behav Pgr Sp Pop	3
EDSE 5325	Development & Disability	3
EDSE 5326	Behav Aspcts of Clss Org & Mgt	3
EDSE 5327	Fed Leg, Litigation & Advocacy	3
EDSE 5353	Autism Spectrum Disorders and Related Issues	3
EDSE 5354	Emotional Behavior Disorders	3
EDSE 5351	Adv Behavior Analysis & Interv	3
EDSE 5301	Research in Spec Education	3
Total Credits		30

Educational Diagnostician Certificate

Candidates seeking only Educational Diagnostician Certification must earn a minimum of 24 semester credit hours as follows:

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
EDSE 5322	Ed Test & Measure of Exc Lrnr	3
EDSE 5324	Dsgn Instr & Behav Pgr Sp Pop	3
EDSE 5325	Development & Disability	3
EDSE 5326	Behav Aspcts of Clss Org & Mgt	3
EDSE 5327	Fed Leg, Litigation & Advocacy	3
EDSE 5355	Assmnt & Ed Proc Low Incid Pop	3
EDSE 5374	Ed & Psych Measurement & Eval	3
EDSE 5375	Spec Ed Assessment Practicum ¹	3-6
Total Credits		24-27

¹ May be repeated for credit

Plan of Study Instructional Specialist Track

This is an example of a degree track for a Master of Education in Special Education- Instructional Specialist Track (30 credit hours). This plan has all electives already selected for the student.

Course	Title	Credits
First Year		
First Semester		
EDSE 5322	Ed Test & Measure of Exc Lrnr	3
EDSE 5327	Fed Leg, Litigation & Advocacy	3
		Credits
		6
Second Semester		
EDSE 5324	Dsgn Instr & Behav Pgr Sp Pop	3
EDSE 5326	Behav Aspcts of Clss Org & Mgt	3
		Credits
		6
Third Semester		
EDSE 5321	Accom Diverse Pop in Classroom	3
EDSE 5309	Special Problems	3
		Credits
		6
Second Year		
First Semester		
EDSE 5301	Research in Spec Education	3
EDSE 5354	Emotional Behavior Disorders	3
		Credits
		6
Second Semester		
Additional Coursework		
		3
EDSE 5325	Development & Disability	
or	or Autism Spectrum Disorders and	
EDSE 5353	Related Issues	
or	or Adv Behavior Analysis & Interv	
EDSE 5351	or Ed & Psych Measurement & Eval	
or		
EDSE 5374		
		Credits
		3
Third Semester		
EDSE 5325	Development & Disability	3
		Credits
		3
Total Credits		30

Assessment Focus (Educational Diagnostician) Track

This is an example of a degree track for a Master of Education in Special Education- Assessment Focus (Educational Diagnostician 33 credit hours). This plan has all the electives already selected for the students.

Required Coursework

Course	Title	Credits
First Year		
Fall		
EDSE 5322	Ed Test & Measure of Exc Lrnr	3
EDSE 5327	Fed Leg, Litigation & Advocacy	3
Credits		6
Spring		
EDSE 5324	Dsgn Instr & Behav Pgr Sp Pop	3
EDSE 5326	Behav Aspcts of Clss Org & Mgt	3
Credits		6
Second Year		
Fall		
EDSE 5301	Research in Spec Education	3
EDSE 5375	Spec Ed Assessment Practicum ¹	3
Credits		6
Spring		
EDSE 5325	Development & Disability	3
EDSE 5374	Ed & Psych Measurement & Eval	3
Credits		6
Summer		
EDSE 5355	Assmnt & Ed Proc Low Incid Pop	3
Credits		3
Total Credits		27

Additional Coursework (6 semester credit hours - Select 2 Courses)

Course	Title	Credits
First Year		
Summer		
EDSE 5321	Accom Diverse Pop in Classroom ^{2,3}	
EDSE 5352	Lang Disorders of Except Chld ²	
Credits		0
Second Year		
Fall		
EDSE 5375	Spec Ed Assessment Practicum (May be taken in spring) ^{2,4}	
Credits		0
Summer		
EDSE 5309	Special Problems ²	
Credits		0
Total Credits		0

¹ Can be repeated for credit

² Required courses, additional approved course or thesis can be substituted

³ Must be taken if prerequisite requirement is not met

⁴ If practicum is not completed in one semester (otherwise, a course from Reading, Bilingual, Counseling, or Educational Leadership may be selected with approval)

Educational Diagnostician Certificate Track

This is an example of a degree track for Educational Diagnostician Certificate – 24-27 credit hours). This plan has all the electives already selected for the students.

Course	Title	Credits
First Year		
First Semester		
EDSE 5324	Dsgn Instr & Behav Pgr Sp Pop	3
EDSE 5326	Behav Aspcts of Clss Org & Mgt	3
Credits		6
Second Semester		
EDSE 5322	Ed Test & Measure of Exc Lrnr	3
EDSE 5327	Fed Leg, Litigation & Advocacy	3
Credits		6
Third Semester		
EDSE 5321	Accom Diverse Pop in Classroom ¹	3
EDSE 5355	Assmnt & Ed Proc Low Incid Pop ³	3
Credits		6
Second Year		
First Semester		
EDSE 5325	Development & Disability	3
EDSE 5374	Ed & Psych Measurement & Eval	3
Credits		6
Second Semester		
EDSE 5375	Spec Ed Assessment Practicum ²	3
Credits		3
Total Credits		27

¹ Pre-req if needed

² Repeat for credit if needed to collect 160 hours of internship

³ If not taken the previous year

Autism/Emotional Behavior Disorder Focus Track

This is an example of a degree track for Autism/Emotional Behavior Disorder Focus 30 credit-hours). This plan has all the electives already selected for the students.

Course	Title	Credits
First Year		
First Semester		
EDSE 5322	Ed Test & Measure of Exc Lrnr	3
EDSE 5327	Fed Leg, Litigation & Advocacy	3
Credits		6
Second Semester		
EDSE 5324	Dsgn Instr & Behav Pgr Sp Pop	3

EDSE 5326	Behav Aspcts of Clss Org & Mgt	3
	Credits	6
Third Semester		
EDSE 5309	Special Problems	3
EDSE 5325	Development & Disability	3
	Credits	6
Second Year		
First Semester		
EDSE 5301	Research in Spec Education	3
EDSE 5354	Emotional Behavior Disorders	3
	Credits	6
Second Semester		
EDSE 5353	Autism Spectrum Disorders and Related Issues	3
EDSE 5351	Adv Behavior Analysis & Interv	3
	Credits	6
	Total Credits	30