Master of Science in Education in Special Education

The Department of Special Education (http://specialedu.soe.ku.edu) offers graduate online and face to face education for students interested in teaching, research, and professional service related to children, adolescents, and adults with disabilities and their families. Since the 1970s, the department has received national and international recognition. The faculty is known for its leadership to the field, commitment to high-quality education for children and youth with disabilities, innovative field-based research, and preparation of highly effective program graduates. The annual U.S. News and World Report graduate program survey consistently ranks KU's Department of Special Education at the top when compared to more than 200 graduate programs in this field. As one of the most comprehensive special education preparation programs in the country, the department attracts students from many states and countries.

Students may pursue a master’s degree emphasizing teaching in one of 5 areas:

- Autism spectrum disorder
- Early Childhood Unified (ECU, birth through kindergarten)
- High-incidence disabilities
- Low-incidence disabilities
- Secondary transition education and services

Students seeking Kansas State Department of Education teaching licensure can complete requirements for special education endorsement in the following areas:

- Early Childhood Unified (ECU, birth through kindergarten)
- High-incidence disabilities
- Low-incidence disabilities

With the exception of Early Childhood Unified (birth through K) licensure program, all endorsement areas require current Kansas licensure in elementary, secondary, or early childhood unified (birth through grade 3 or birth through K).

Students seeking initial licensure or an endorsement to an existing license must review their individual state licensure requirements with the appropriate licensing or regulatory authorities prior to enrolling.

Graduate Admission to the School of Education

Graduate programs in education are open to students with acceptable baccalaureate and graduate degrees whose academic records indicate that they can do successful work at the graduate level. Regular admission requires a grade-point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in prior degrees. Individual departments may require additional information and may have more stringent admission requirements.

Some departments may offer special provisional admission categories to students who may not qualify under regular admission criteria. Departments that offer provisional admission require a grade-point average of at least 2.5. Applicants must provide evidence of ability to work successfully at the graduate level, including experience in and commitment to the profession. Exceptions to established policies must be sought individually by petition to the Graduate Division of the School of Education.

See Admission in the Graduate Studies (http://catalog.ku.edu/graduate-studies) section of the online catalog for more information.

Each department in the School of Education sets its own application deadlines. Prospective graduate students should contact their departments for more information.

M.S.E. Degree Program

Graduates are employed as general educators, special educators, or consultants in a wide range of settings. Many complete course work required for the Kansas special education teaching endorsements or teaching license. Some students from related fields (e.g., speech therapists, occupational therapist, social workers) pursue this degree to expand their professional knowledge and skills by for teaching children and youth with disabilities. These students may choose to complete a Masters and not complete KS endorsement/licensure requirements.

The M.S.E. program ranges from 30 to 36 credit hours, depending on whether one pursues a thesis/project (30-hour) or nonthesis (36-hour) program option. The addition of professional endorsements may lengthen a student's program to 42 credit hours, depending on the endorsement(s) chosen by the student. The degree requires courses in the area of study (plus any endorsement-related courses); a research class; and completion of a project, thesis, or written examination.

Further information is available from the department (http://specialedu.soe.ku.edu).

Low-Incidence Disabilities Curriculum

Low-Incidence Provisional Kansas Endorsement Requirements:

- **SPED 730** Characteristics, Methods & Assessment: Intro Struggling Learners & Studnts High-Incidence Disabilities 3

- **SPED 742** Assessment and Methods of Teaching Students with Low-Incidence Disabilities in Inclusive Settings 3

- **SPED 775** Practicum with Children and Youth with Disabilities: 1,2 ____ (Practicum with Children and Youth with Disabilities: ___) Fall 1 credit; Spring 2 credits

Low-Incidence Endorsement Requirements (In addition to the above courses):

- **SPED 735** Introduction to Teaching Learners with Low-Incidence Disabilities in Inclusive Settings 3

- **SPED 743** Methods: Functional Behavioral Assessment, Positive Behavior Support and Classroom Management 3

- **SPED 842** Methods in Access and Inclusion in the Core Curriculum 3

- **SPED 844** Advanced Methods in Access and Inclusion in the Core Curriculum 3
SPED 854  Family and Interprofessional Collaboration in Special Education
SPED 856  Transition Education and Services from Childhood through Adulthood
SPED 875  Practicum with Children and Youth with Disabilities: 1,2 (Low-Incidence) Fall 1 credit; Spring 2 credits

Additional Courses Needed to Complete the Master's Degree:
EPSY 715  Understanding Research in Education 3
Elective course outside dept. or program area 3

Master's Thesis or Project Option:
To complete a Masters degree in Special Education (M.S.E.), students must have a total of 30 credit hours. Within these 30 credit hours a majority of the hours must be taken in Special Education. In addition, students must also enroll in 3 credit hours of either Master's Project or Master's Thesis and 3 credit hours of EPSY 715.

One of the following courses to complete the Master's Thesis or Project Option:
SPED 898  Master's Project 3
SPED 899  Master's Thesis 3

Written Exam Option:
Students complete 36 credit hours of graduate coursework, a majority of the hours in Special Education and a written comprehensive exam. Students must be enrolled in graduate credit hours the semester they complete the exam, typically during the final semester. This option is only available with approval from your advisor.

High-Incidence Disabilities
The Department of Special Education (http://specialedu.soe.ku.edu) is not currently accepting applications for graduate admission to the on-campus Master's in High Incidence Disabilities. Individuals interested in the fully online Master's in High Incidence Disabilities offered at KU can learn more here (https://educationonline.ku.edu/online-degrees/special-education-department/high-incidence-disabilities).

Masters of Science in Education - On-line programs
The Special Education online graduate programs, with Master's and endorsement-only options, equips students to meet the challenges of being a special educator by building skills to assist both at-risk students and those with identified disabilities.

High-Incidence Curriculum
Courses required for the program:
SPED 730  Characteristics, Methods & Assessment: Intro Struggling Learners & Studnts High-Incidence Disabilities 3
SPED 741  Methods & Assessment: Literacy Interventions Struggling Learners&Students High-Incidence Disabilities 3
SPED 743  Methods: Functional Behavioral Assessment, Positive Behavior Support and Classroom Management 3
SPED 775  Practicum with Children and Youth with Disabilities: _____ (High-Incidence) 3
SPED 841  Advncd Methods&Asmnt:Learng Stratg&Contnt Mastery Struggling Learners&Stdnts High-Incidence Disabilit 3
SPED 843  Advanced Methods&Assessment:Strategies for Students with Significant Behavior, Social&Emotional Need 3
SPED 854  Family and Interprofessional Collaboration in Special Education 3
SPED 856  Transition Education and Services from Childhood through Adulthood 3
SPED 875  Practicum with Children and Youth with Disabilities: _____ (High-Incidence) 3
EPSY 715  Understanding Research in Education 3
SPED 898  Master's Project 3
Total Credit Hours 33

Secondary Special Education and Transition Curriculum
Courses required for the program:
SPED 856  Transition Education and Services from Childhood through Adulthood 3
SPED 858  Assessment for Transition Planning 3
SPED 857  Career Development for Youth 3
SPED 861  Blending Academics and Transition 3
Master of Science in Education in Special Education

SPED 862  Work-Based Learning  3
SPED 863  Student Engagement in School and Community  3
SPED 859  Interagency Services for Transition to Adulthood  3
EPSY 715  Understanding Research in Education  3
Elective Course  3
SPED 898  Master's Project  3
Total Credit Hours  30

**Autism Spectrum Disorders Curriculum**

Courses required for the program:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPED 760</td>
<td>Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorders</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPED 860</td>
<td>Education of Children and Youth with Disabilities: Autism Spectrum Disorder</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPED 785</td>
<td>Application of Assessment Information for Exceptional Children and Youth: Autism Spectrum Disorder</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPED 790</td>
<td>Methods for Learners with Higher-Functioning Autism Spectrum Disorder</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPED 800</td>
<td>Teaching Language and Communication Skills to Students with Autism and Developmental Disabilities</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPED 854</td>
<td>Family and Interprofessional Collaboration in Special Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPSY 715</td>
<td>Understanding Research in Education</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Elective course determined by track</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPED 871</td>
<td>Advanced Practicum with Exceptional Children Needing an Autism Spectrum Curriculum</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPED 898</td>
<td>Master's Project</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Total Credit Hours 36

**Program Tracks:**

Students will complete three (3) elective courses from a single elective track for their program of study. There are three tracks to choose from: the Behavior track, the Leadership track and the Secondary/Transition track. Courses for each track will be determined in consultation with your advisor.

**Important Dates**

**DEC**

30

**Application Deadline**

December 30th

**JAN**

09

**Next Start**

January 9th

**Request Information**

Program of Interest

Autism Spectrum Disorders (M.S.E.)

Autism Spectrum Disorders (Cert)
Curriculum & Instruction (M.S.E.)
Educational Administration (M.S.E.)
Leadership in Special & Inclusive Education (Cert)
Reading (M.S.E.)
Special Education (M.S.E.)
Secondary SPED & Transition (M.S.E.)
TESOL (M.S.E.)

Learn More

By clicking "Learn More," I agree to provide the contact information listed above for the purpose of receiving communications regarding educational programs and opportunities.

**Recent Articles**

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Infographic (https://educationonline.ku.edu/community/idea-infographic)

Timeline of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) (https://educationonline.ku.edu/community/idea-timeline)

The 21st Century Principal: For Teachers and Administrators (https://educationonline.ku.edu/community/the-21st-century-principal)

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**KU School of Education News**

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Yong Zhao: How Did the U.S. Do on the Latest International Tests? (http://soe.ku.edu/yong-zhao-how-did-us-do-latest-international-tests)

December 1, 2016

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