

ACADEMIC BEHAVIORAL STRATEGIST K-12 (ABS) LICENSE

Special Education Programs: M.A., License

The purpose of the M.A. in Special Education, and Special Education License programs, is to equip, educate, empower, and engage special education teachers for the 21st century across the state of Minnesota and beyond. The Special Education programs emphasize the practical application of the theoretical and research bases of the discipline, special education foundations, data-based decision-making, as well as ethical/spiritual issues related to the profession. Students will learn from current researchers in the field along with current practitioners in Minnesota K-12 public schools. Students will have the option to choose from four different license tracks: Academic Behavioral Strategist, Autism Spectrum Disorders, Developmental Cognitive Disabilities, and/or Emotional Behavioral Disorders.

License Requirements

To be recommended for a license students must:

- Maintain academic success, which is defined as completion of each teacher licensure and each content area course with a passing grade: S, C, or higher.
- Maintain character, ethics, and relational skills consistent with the role and responsibility of the professional educator. Any student failing to meet this expectation may be asked to discuss with the program director other viable options for professional development.
- Complete required license standards, which are subject to change at any time by the Professional Education Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB).
- Meet the PELSB license standards in place at the time of program completion.

If PELSB changes any content standards or education standards after a student is admitted into a Bethel education program, the student is responsible to find, complete, and pay for appropriate classes to meet the standard(s) either at Bethel or another college/university.

Admission Requirements

The M.A. degree and licenses in special education will consider applicants who:

- Meet the general requirements (<http://catalog.bethel.edu/graduate/admission/admission-requirements/>) for admission to the Graduate School.
- Submit an official transcript (U.S. schools) or NACES or AICE evaluation (international schools) showing an earned baccalaureate degree and official transcripts or NACES or AICE evaluations from all undergraduate and graduate schools attended. Undergraduate transcript(s) may be waived if transfer credit(s) are not used being used to fulfill content area requirements.
- Have earned a baccalaureate degree or higher from a regionally accredited (or internationally recognized as equivalent) institution.
- Have earned a GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale on the highest degree completed.
- Submit two professional *Admission References*.
- Submit a written *Statement of Purpose*.¹
- Interview with the program director or enrollment counselor.¹
- Submit a copy of current or most recent state or internationally recognized teaching license at the elementary, secondary, or K-12 (or equivalent) level. Applicants without a current teaching license will be considered for admission to the special education program.

NOTE: Students who become licensed in *ABS K-12*, *ASD B-21*, *DD K-12* or *EBD K-12* but do not have a regular teaching license prior to entering the program will only be eligible to teach in those areas of special education license, not as regular education teachers.

- Submission of current Tier 3 or 4 Minnesota teaching license is sufficient documentation of completion of equivalent Standards of Effective Practice (SEP) coursework listed in the degree requirements.
- Submit a current resume.

Students who have not achieved the minimum GPA, grade standards, or other assessment criteria may still apply to be considered for provisional acceptance. See *Admission Categories*.

¹ Required if this is the student's first special education license.

License Requirements

Academic Behavioral Strategist K-12 (ABS) License

The curriculum for the Academic Behavioral Strategist K-12 License is between 36-53 credits. Courses for the full license are designated as Standards of Effective Practice (SEP) courses, Special Education License Core (SPED) courses, and ABS License (ABS) courses. Students who already hold a full professional teaching license take only the SPED Core courses and ABS courses. Students with a qualifying special education license take only the ABS courses. All other students take the SEP courses, the SPED Core courses, and the ABS courses.

Code	Title	Credits
Standards of Effective Practice Courses: 16 credits [‡]		
EDUC 594	General Methods of Effective Instruction [‡]	3
EDUC 595	School-wide Systems Field Experience [‡]	1
EDUC 621	Foundations in Education [‡]	3
EDUC 624	Introduction to Theories and Practices of Teaching and Learning [‡]	3
EDUC 663	Understanding Diversity and Student Needs [‡]	2
EDUC 668	Classroom Technology [‡]	1
EDUC 751	Special Education Student Teaching Seminar [‡]	3
Special Education License Core courses: 17 credits		
SPED 605	Introduction to Special Education	1
SPED 608	Introduction to Academic Instruction and Behavior Management for the Exceptional Learner	3
SPED 610	Norm-Referenced Assessment	3
SPED 620	Reading Foundations	3
SPED 621	Reading Field Experience	1
SPED 625	Special Education: Planning and Programming	3
SPED 670	Special Education Assessment Field Experience	1
SPED 675	Consultation, Collaboration & Resources	2
ABS License courses: 19-20 credits		
SPED 600	Characteristics of Mild-Moderate Disabilities	3
SPED 618	Foundations of Instructional Strategies for Students with Mild-Moderate Disabilities	3
SPED 631	Responsive Instruction, Intervention, and Assessment	3

SPED 641	Introduction to Behavioral Methods & Mental Health for Mild to Moderate Special Needs	3
SPED 655	Classroom-Based Assessment	3
SPED 673	ABS Field Experience	1
SPED 780	Student Teaching - Academic Behavior Strategist *	3-4
or SPED 782	SPED Practicum for Teachers of Other Licenses	
Total Credits		36-53

* Course must be taken for credit at Bethel.

± Required for all students who do not already hold a full professional teaching license.