

M.A. IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

Overview

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.

Program Design and Delivery

Courses offered are generally taken one at a time sequentially throughout the calendar year, including the summer months. M.A. in Special Education courses are delivered fully online with 2-3 Saturday intensives over the course of 18-24 months.

Accreditation

Bethel's graduate teacher education degree programs are accredited by the Minnesota Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB) which has approved Bethel's Graduate education programs leading to initial and add-on licenses in various K-12, 9-12, and 5-12 content areas; initial and add-on licenses in various special education disability areas; as well as an add-on license in Teacher Coordinator of Work-based Learning.

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.

Degree Requirements

M.A. in Special Education

The required curriculum for the M.A. in Special Education comprises a 37-58 credit sequence of courses. Students must complete one to two of the following concentrations: Standards of Effective Practice, Academic Behavioral Strategist K-12; Autism Spectrum Disorders B-21, Developmental Disabilities K-12, and/or Emotional/Behavioral Disorders K-12; or complete the basic program sequence. Bethel offers each concentration fully online with 2-3 Saturday intensives.

Code	Title	Credits
Bethel Core Courses		
EDUC 614	Locating Resources for Educational Research *	1
EDUC 755	Preparing the Thesis/Collaborative Research Project *	1
EDUC 790	Writing the Thesis/Collaborative Research Project *	3
SPED 618	Foundations of Instructional Strategies for Students with Mild-Moderate Disabilities	3
SPED 655	Classroom-Based Assessment	3
SPED 670	Special Education Assessment Field Experience	1
Minnesota PELSB Special Education Core		
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 675	Consultation, Collaboration & Resources	2
Select one to two concentrations		9-30
Total Credits		37-58

* Course must be taken for credit at Bethel.

M.A. in Special Education Concentrations

Concentration in Standards of Effective Practice

In order for students to be able to access financial aid for the standards of effective practice (SEPs) courses, the 16 credits of SEPs must be part of the Master's degree program as an additional required concentration. Students who enroll with a Minnesota Tier 3 or 4 teacher license are not required to take this SEP concentration.

Code	Title	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
Total Credits		16

Concentration in Academic Behavioral Strategist

Code	Title	Credits
SPED 600	Characteristics of 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 673	ABS Field Experience	1
SPED 780	Student Teaching - Academic Behavior Strategist *	3-4
or SPED 786	ABS: Practicum	
or SPED 782	SPED Practicum for Teachers of Other Licenses	
Total Credits		13-14

Concentration in Autism Spectrum Disorders

Code	Title	Credits
SPED 601	Characteristics of ASD	3
SPED 611	Autism Spectrum Disorders: Assessment, Communication and Instructional Strategies	3
SPED 612	Planning, Instruction & Consultation for ASD	3
SPED 671	ASD Field Experience	1
SPED 781	ASD: Student Teaching *	3-4
or SPED 787	ASD: Practicum	
or SPED 782	SPED Practicum for Teachers of Other Licenses	
Total Credits		13-14

Concentration in Developmental Disabilities

Code	Title	Credits
SPED 607	Foundations of Developmental and Cognitive Disabilities/ Intellectual Disabilities	3
SPED 615	Instruction and Intervention for Students with Intellectual Disabilities	3
SPED 619	Supporting Students with Intellectual Disabilities Across Systems	3
SPED 674	Development Disabilities: Field Experience	1
SPED 779	Developmental Disabilities: Practicum *	3-4
or SPED 784	Developmental Disabilities: Student Teaching	
or SPED 782	SPED Practicum for Teachers of Other Licenses	
Total Credits		13-14

Concentration in Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities

Code	Title	Credits
SPED 604	Child & Adolescent Psychopathology	3
SPED 613	Intervention Strategies for Moderate to Severe Behavioral Disabilities	3
SPED 641	Introduction to Behavioral Methods & Mental Health for Mild to Moderate Special Needs	3
SPED 672	Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities: Field Experience	1
SPED 783	Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities: Student Teaching *	3-4
or SPED 788	Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities: Practicum	
or SPED 782	SPED Practicum for Teachers of Other Licenses	
Total Credits		13-14

Basic Program Sequence

Code	Title	Credits
SPED 600	Characteristics of 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
Total Credits		9

* Course must be taken for credit at Bethel.