

Texas Woman's University
College of Professional Education
Special Education Master's Degree

The Special Education Program offers both a Masters of Education (M.Ed.) and Master of Arts (M.A.) degree.

Prerequisite:

- teaching certification in any field. A student may work toward a teaching certificate while taking special education courses.
- introductory special education course (not more than 10 years old).

If this requirement has not been met, EDSP 5003 (Psychology of the Exceptional Child) or EDSP 4203 (Learners with Exceptionalities) must be taken as a prerequisite or co-requisite with another special education course. EDSP 5003 is offered in the fall and summer semesters. EDSP 4203 is offered every semester.

Minimum 36 graduate courses

- 9-hour research core
- 12-hour special education core
- 12 hours from a specialization strand:
Generic special education, learning disabilities, emotional/behavioral disorders, mental retardation/developmental disabilities, gifted education, and diagnostician.
A student who wishes to also obtain a diagnostician's certification in addition to a Master's may need additional courses.
- 3 hours-elective

Required Research Core

*M.Ed. (9 hrs.)

ELDR 5203. Research in Education

EDSP 5973. Professional Paper

(must sign up for 2 semesters or take another course with advisor approval)

*M.A. (12 hrs.)

ELDR 5203. Research in Education

EDSP 5903. Statistics or another research methods course with advisor approval

EDSP 5983. Thesis

EDSP 5993 Thesis

Special Education Core (15 hours)

If prerequisite has not been met (introductory special education course), EDSP 5803 or EDSP 4203 must be taken as a prerequisite or co-requisite.

EDSP 5033. Tests and Measurement for the Exceptional Child

EDSP 5053. Principles of Learning for Exceptional Children

EDSP 5013. Collaboration in the Schools

EDSP 5043. Administration and Supervision of Special Education

Choose a Specialization Strand: (12 courses)

1. Generic Special Education.

This sequence is designed for students who do not have a background in special education and would like to seek special education certification. (Please note there may be additional certification requirements that cannot be met within the 36 hour program).

Choose at least 2 courses from the following:

EDSP 5103. Developmental Disabilities

EDSP 5433. Language Problems of Students with Disabilities

EDSP 5413. Individuals with Learning Disabilities

EDSP 5303. Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disorders

Choose 2 courses from the following:

EDSP 5423. Methods of Teaching Special Education

EDSP 5163. Inclusive Educational Programming

EDSP 5313. School-based Interventions for Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disorders

EDSP 5323. Models and Theories for the Education of Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disorders

Elective:

Choose any course above or another course with advisor approval.

2. Learning Disabilities

EDSP 5423. Methods of Teaching Special Education

EDSP 5413. Individuals with Learning Disabilities.

EDSP 5433. Language Problems of Students with Disabilities

EDSP 5163. Inclusive Educational Programming

Elective—Choose 1 course from the following:

EDSP 5103. Developmental Disabilities

EDSP 5303. Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disorders

EDSP 5313. School-based Interventions for Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disorders

EDSP 5323. Models and Theories for the Education of Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disorders

3. Mental Retardation / Developmental Disabilities

EDSP 5103. Developmental Disabilities
EDSP 5113. Individuals with Multiple and Severe Disabilities
EDSP 5423. Methods of Teaching Special Education
EDSP 5433. Language Problems of Students with Disabilities

Elective: Choose 1 course from the following:

EDSP 5163. Inclusive Educational Programming
EDSP 5303. Students with Emotional/ Behavioral Problems
EDSP 5313. School-based Interventions for Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disorders
EDSP 5323. Models and Theories for the Education of Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disorders

4. Emotional / Behavioral Disorders (endorsement)

EDSP 5303. Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disorders
EDSP 5313. School-based Interventions for Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disorders
EDSP 5323. Models and Theories for the Education of Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disorders
EDSP 5433. Language Problems of Students with Disabilities
EDSP 5923. Practicum in Emotional/Behavioral Disorders—Required unless experience criteria met.

If experience criteria met choose 1 course from the following:

EDSP 5423. Methods of Teaching Special Education
EDSP 5103. Developmental Disabilities
EDSP 5163. Inclusive Educational Programming
EDSP 5433. Language Problems of Students with Disabilities

5. Diagnostician

Required: (3 courses)

(EDSP 5033 is a prerequisite for EDSP 5843 & 5833)

EDSP 5843. Clinical Instruction in Intellectual Assessment
EDSP 5833. Clinical Instruction in Psychoeducational Assessment
(Both EDSP 5843 & 5833 are prerequisites for EDSP 6853)

EDSP 6853. Practicum in Assessment and Evaluation of Individuals with Disabilities

Electives (2-3 courses)

If seeking an M.Ed. and diagnostician certification, you can plan to complete the professional paper in one semester and take up to 9 courses from the list of courses below to satisfy the 36 hour Master's requirement. It is recommended that you have a diagnostician certification plan in place before selecting courses.

EDSP 5423. Methods of Teaching Special Education
EDSP 5103. Developmental Disabilities
EDSP 5163. Inclusive Educational Programming

EDSP 5303. Students with Emotional / Behavioral Disorders
EDSP 5313. School-based Interventions for Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disorders
EDSP 5323. Models and Theories for the Education of Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disorders
EDSP 5433. Language Problems of Students with Disabilities
EDSP 5413. Individuals with Learning Disabilities

* EDSP 5973- Professional Paper

During the last 2 semesters of the degree program, students who are in the M.Ed. program will engage in some type of research or project that will result in a professional paper. Prior to enrolling in EDSP 5973, the student will ask a special education faculty member to be the chair of their student's professional paper committee. The chair will act as a mentor during the research and writing process. When the professional paper has been completed and approved by the student's committee, there will be an oral defense (examination) of the professional paper. Upon completion of 21 hours, students should meet with their advisor to discuss topic for paper.

EDSP 5983 and 5993 Thesis

During the last 2 semesters of the degree program students will conduct a formal research study that is approved by the student's thesis committee and the Graduate School. Prior to enrolling in EDSP 5983 the student will ask a faculty member to be the chair of the committee. The chair will act as a mentor during the research and writing process. A thesis that describes the study will be written. When the thesis has been completed and approved by the committee, there will be an oral defense (examination) of the thesis. The thesis will then be submitted to the graduate school for approval. Upon completion of 21 hours, students should meet with their advisor to discuss topic for thesis. If a student plans to write a thesis, the student will take 9 hours in the specialization strand. Only 12 semester credit hours will be transferred from a non-degree seeking status to degree seeking status. Therefore, it is important to be officially admitted into the Master's program as soon as possible.