

Masters Graduate Programs

Special Education Master's Degree₁₈ Programs



Updated: June 1, 2015

Special Education Program
Department of Counseling and Special Education

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. **INTRODUCTION**.....1

II. **ADMISSION**1

 Application Materials.....2

 Admission Requirements for MEd, MA, AGS3

 Graduate Admission Committee Review.....3

 Provisional Admission.....4

 Acceptance or Defer of Admission.....4

III. **MASTER’S OF EDUCATION CERTIFICATION (MCERT) PROGRAMS** ..4

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MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

Department of Counseling, Higher Education, and Special Education
College of Education
University of Maryland

Introduction

The Special Education program is part of the Department of Counseling, Higher Education, and Special Education (CHSE). Graduate programs in special education are designed to prepare highly qualified teachers, to provide graduate level course content, and to prepare researchers, teacher educators, and leaders in the field of special education. We offer the following graduate program options:

- M.Ed. in Special Education with generic Age Base Certification in Elementary/Middle School (MCert 1 Year Program)
- M.Ed. in Special Education with generic Age Base in Elementary/Middle and Severe Disabilities Certification (MCert 2 Year Program)
- M.Ed. in Special Education with Severe Disabilities Certification Only (MSev - 30 credits)
- M.Ed. Specialty (Noncertification) Program (30 credits)
- M.A. in Special Education (36 credits)
- Advanced Graduate Specialist Certificate (30 credits beyond the master's degree)

The Special Education Program in the College of Education at the University of Maryland ranked #11 for 2016 in the US News and World Report. In addition, the university community, the state

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- Submission of all official transcripts and supplementary application materials
- Submission of appropriate visa and financial documentation (for international applicants only)
- Fulfillment of all graduate program admissions requirements
- Adherence to published application deadlines

Admission requirements for international students can be found at:

<http://globalmaryland.umd.edu/offices/international-students-scholar-services/graduate-admissions>

Application Materials

1. **One complete set of official transcripts** reflecting all undergraduate and graduate work completed or in progress. Each transcript must bear the signature of the registrar and the seal of the granting institution. If the applicant attended the University of Maryland, the Graduate School will obtain your records of courses completed at the College Park campus.
2. **Maryland In-State Status Form** must be completed to be eligible for Maryland resident in-state status; otherwise, you will be charged out-of-state tuition rates. For more information, visit the residency/classification office website at: <http://www.testudo.umd.edu/rco/>.
3. **A minimum of three (3) current letters of recommendation** from present and/or former professors, supervisors, or employers who can assess the quality of the applicant's academic capabilities, work experience, and/or professional characteristics. Recommendation letters are sent to selected individuals and completed online.
4. **A statement of goals, relevant experiences, and research interests** approximately 1000-1500 words in length.
5. **Standardized Test Scores** are required for the following degrees/c.5 -i-2(2m)-6(at)-6(el)-16(y)26()TJ 0 T

content areas must
take *Praxis Core*,
SAT, *GRE*, or *ACT*.

university, and community life.

Admission Requirements for MEd, MA, and AGS

1. Grade point average of 3.0 or better (based on a 4.0 system) from an accredited undergraduate institution;
2. Grade point average of 3.5 or better (based on a 4.0 system) in any previous graduate work from an accredited institution;
3. Basic Skills Test sco

conditions (e.g., fulfillment of prerequisite coursework, maintenance of a specific graduate GPA) accompany the offer of provisional admission.

Acceptance or Defer of Admission

An applicant who is offered admission must accept or decline the offer of admission by the date specified on the admission letter and **email your intent to register (second page of the Offer of Admission letter) to Ms. Carol Scott (cscott18@umd.edu), Coordinator of CHSE Graduate Programs.** In some cases, students may defer the date of admission; however, a written request must be made to the Director of Graduate Records, Admissions Office, Graduate School, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland 20742. In addition, the student must notify his/her advisor of the request to defer and Ms. Carol Scott (cscott18@umd.edu).

For information on how to access UM resources and Testudo, see *Getting your Directory ID/Password for Registration and Access to Campus Resources in later sections.*

Note: All students are required to complete an Immunization Form to attend the University of Maryland. If you **do not** submit the immunization form, you will be **blocked from registering for classes.** Visit the UM Health Center website at:

<http://www.health.umd.edu/clinicalservices/allergimmuntravel/immunizations>.

III. MASTER'S OF EDUCATION CERTIFICATION (MCERT) PROGRAMS

All masters' programs must be completed in the 5-year timeframe per the University of Maryland Graduate School policy. Additionally, continuous registration is required for all students for the fall and spring semesters each year. If graduating in August, you must be registered for a summer session.

For exceptions to the continuous registration requirement, students complete a Petition for Waiver of Continuous Registration form found online. Newly admitted students are to register the semester of admission to validate admission. For additional information on Registration Policies go to the Graduate School website at:

http://www.gradschool.umd.edu/catalog/academic_policies.htm

There are three distinct MCert program options to obtain teacher certification in special education, all approved programs by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP).

All MCert students must pass a MSDE Approved Basic Skills Test and the Praxis II test at designated cut-off scores. Students must progress timely through their program sequence and field placements. Additionally they must receive satisfactory evaluations from internship supervisors on the Performance Based Assessment and Foundational Competencies each semester of internship or they will not be eligible to continue in the special education certification program.

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MCert Option 1: MEd in Special Education with Generic Elementary/Middle Age Base Certification (1 Year; Full time; 39-42 credit hours)

The MEd with generic age base certification is completed in one summer (enrolling in both summer sessions) and one academic year full time. Students selecting this option MUST begin the program in Summer Session I prior to their internship year. Summer coursework is followed by a full time, academic year that includes a yearlong internship in the public schools along with sequenced coursework and graduation is in May. If needed, coursework is taken in the summer session following the internship and graduation is in August.

Students earn a Master's of Education (MEd) degree and are recommended for Maryland special

- Maryland Certification in Severe Disabilities (Birth to age 21)
- Instruction of students with Autism, Low Incidence Disabilities, Physical Disabilities, Intellectual Disabilities, etc.
- Rigorous and relevant coursework to develop the knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary for successful teaching careers in special education
- Instruction on evidence based instructional practices and decision making
- Year Long Internship (Field Experience) in inclusive, diverse classrooms

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Form, available on the Graduate School webpage:

http://www.gradschool.umd.edu/catalog/academic_policies.htm

7. **GPA:** Maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.0 in courses approved for graduation **and satisfactorily complete all required course work in the EDSP certification program with a grade of “B-“ or better.** Any “D” or “F” grade on record may be repeated with the second grade counting toward the cumulative GPA. If the course is repeated, the first course registration remains on the transcript. If courses with “D” or “F” grades are not repeated, they will be computed in the grade point average the same as an “F” (zero quality points). In such cases, however, the “D” and “F” grades will not be counted as a part of graduation requirements and additional coursework must be taken.
8. **Submit Application for Graduation:** Published deadlines each semester for submitting the Application for Graduation are found in *Important Dates for All Graduating Graduate Students* found at:

the double count program are assigned a faculty advisor and complete the requirements of MEd Specialty Program. For more information on the Double Count Program, contact:

Office of Student Services
College of Education
1204 Benjamin Building
University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland 20742
Phone: 301.405.2364 or E-mail: ed-advising@umd.edu
Monday through Friday - 8:30am to 4:30pm

**Master's of Education (M.Ed.) Specialty Program Requirements
for Students and Advisors**

1.

Students selecting the MA program

anticipated, the student requests the appointment of the oral defense committee by filing the *Nomination of Thesis or Dissertation Committee* form. This form must be submitted by the published deadline Important Dates for All Graduating Graduate Students found at: <http://www.education.umd.edu/studentinfo/gra>

number of questions and a second faculty evaluator. All MA and AGS students take 3 hours of comprehensive examinations.

4. The advisor forwards a copy of the examination questions to the Coordinator at least one week before the date of the examination.

During the Day of Exam:

5. Each student receives a copy of the examination by a proctor and has three hours to complete the examination.

6. Upon completing the examination, students email their responses to the Coordinator.

7. The Coordinator posts the responses on the Faculty/Staff Special Education ELMS/Canvas organization site.

Evaluation of the Comprehensive Examination:

8. The advisor and the designated additional faculty member read the comprehensive examination responses. Each independently completes a rubric for each question and evaluates each question on a three-point scale: (1) fail; (2) pass; and (3) high pass. The student must average across readers a score of 2.0 or higher on each question to pass.

9. The advisor writes an electronic summary of the

courses and other coursework within the University. More information on the AGS is found at the following website: <http://education.umd.edu/GraduatePrograms/Certificate/index.html>

AGS Program Requirements for Students and Advisors

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|---|
| <p>1. Continuous Registration and Time Line: Registration and advising is required every semester (including the summer session if graduating). The MEd degree must be completed in five years.</p> |
| <p>2. Required Coursework (as of 1/22/15): The following coursework is required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two of the following research methods courses:
EDMS 645 Quantitative Research Methods I
EDSP 670 Single Subject Research in Special Education
EDSP 671 Qualitative Methodologies in Special Education• One of the following:
EDSP 673 Evaluating Evidence-Based Practices in Special Education
EDSP 625 Seminar on Severe Disabilities• EDSP 600 Issues and Trends in Educating Individuals with Disabilities |
| <p>3. Submit AGS Program of</p> |

VII. GETTING A DIRECTORY ID/PASSWORD FOR REGISTRATION AND ACCESS TO CAMPUS RESOURCES

Please visit the following website to obtain your Directory ID and Password:

<http://www.it.umd.edu/new/student.html>

Before being able to access most online resources at the university, you must establish your online identifier, your *Directory ID*, and an associated *password*. Here are the steps to follow in order to establish your Directory ID and Password:

- Identity Proofing - We do not, at this time, require in-person identity verification, so, as an alternative, you must provide several facts that uniquely identify you. This information includes:
 - a portion of your Social Security Number,
 - your surname (last name),
 - your birth date, and
 - a phone number that you we have on file for you.
- Once we have verified your identity, you may select your Directory ID. An initial ID has been established that is based on your name. You may keep this pre-assigned ID or choose a different ID. **Please, carefully consider your choice, because this ID will define your email address and all login IDs at the university.**
- In order to **accept** your ID, either the pre-assigned one or the one you choose, you must review and agree to the [Policy on the Acceptable Use of Information Technology Resources](#), which applies to all members of the university community.
- Once you have established your Directory ID, you will be asked to establish your initial password to the system.
- Next, you will need to provide answers to several security questions. If you forget your password, your responses to these security questions may be used to establish a new password.
- Finally, you will be able to **activate** your Division (,)-10(y)20(ou eT3 Tc 0.003T)-10(D)2(i)1p03 0 .

bills are settled. If the student does not graduate as planned, s/he must apply for the diploma again when s/he is able to graduate.

The student is responsible for filing and completing all forms required throughout their respective degree program as well as for graduation. These forms can be found on the College of Education, Student Services website at: <http://education.umd.edu/studentinfo/> Forms can also be found at the UM Graduate School at http://www.gradschool.umd.edu/current_students/general_forms_for_graduate_students.html After completing forms, please have your advisor sign and submit to the Department Chair for signature, Room 3214.

To ensure each student as met the graduate degree requirements, a request for a graduation “AUDIT” can be retrieved from the **Student Services Office in the College of Education** (Room 1204 Benjamin). They also provide a **step by step graduation requirements** guide on the website at http://www.education.umd.edu/studentinfo/graduate_info/gradsteps.html

Academic regalia (robe and cap) are required for all candidates at graduation. Please see information on the University’s commencement webpage at http://www.commencement.umd.edu/graduate/graduate_regalia.cfm. Please make sure you place your order as soon as possible.