



Special Education Admissions Requirements & Instructions

1. Completion of a minimum of 45 credits
2. Minimum 2.75 cumulative UMD grade point average; Minimum 3.0 GPA is required for the master's program
3. Completion of Fundamental English Composition with a minimum grade of "C-"
4. Completion of STAT 100 (or an approved equivalent) with a minimum grade of "C-"
5. Completion of EDSP 210 (or approved substitute) with a minimum grade of "B-"
6. Completion of Gateway courses with a cumulative 2.7 GPA for the following courses*:
 - a. Biological Science with Lab
 - b. Physical Science with Lab
 - c. STAT 100
 - d. MATH 212 Elements of Numbers

**A minimum "C-" grade is required for each course*
7. Minimum passing scores on a Test of Basic Skills Note: Scores should be sent directly to the College of Education - Institution Code 5814

Special Education Supplemental Application Materials

1. **Notarized Criminal History Disclosure Form:** Form can be found via the following link and needs to be turned in as a hard copy to 1204 Benjamin <https://education.umd.edu/student-resources/student-services/coe-undergraduate-studies-student-services-office/undergraduate-0#crim>
2. **FC/MCEE:** Complete and submit online Foundational Competencies/MCEE form: <https://education.umd.edu/student-resources/student-services/coe-undergraduate-studies-student-services-office/undergraduate-0#Foundcom>
3. **Formal Resume:** Students should include a resume including, but not limited to, a detailed list of previous paid and/or volunteer experiences with individuals with disabilities. This should be submitted in an enhanced resume format, with each item including (at a minimum) a brief description of the type of activity, age group of the children, and type of setting in which these experiences occurred. Competitive candidates should have experience interacting with children of the target age group and diverse populations (e.g. ELLs, children with disabilities, non-dominant ethnic groups), and/or varying socioeconomic backgrounds.
4. **Goal Statement:** (4-page limit)

Guiding questions:

- What does it mean to be a good special education teacher to all students?
- How have my prior experiences (academic, work, and/or volunteer) prepared me to pursue a degree in special education?

We expect your essay to be well organized and to demonstrate your ability to express yourself in a coherent and professional manner. As we read your essay, we will be looking for evidence that you do the following:

- Explain what you believe to be the qualities of a strong special education teacher.
- Explain what you believe to be the most important responsibilities of a special education teacher.
- Explain why these qualities and responsibilities are important when working with children with disabilities.
- Address the need for special education teachers to reach diverse populations of learners and maintain a positive and engaging learning environment for all students.
- Demonstrate a thoughtful consideration of attributes you possess that will help you successfully enter the field of special education. Discuss your experiences working with children and/or youth with disabilities. How do these attributes and experiences align with those of a strong special educator?
- Discuss your experience engaging and working with children from diverse backgrounds (e.g., non-dominant ethnic and cultural communities, immigrant families, individuals whose first language is not English) and varying socioeconomic status. Explain how that work will inform your future instruction.
- Identify areas you seek to develop further by enrolling in the special education teacher preparation program. Describe what skills and knowledge you wish to develop so you can be an effective special education teacher (e.g., content, pedagogy, management and/or student learning).

Finally, pay attention to the organization, elaboration of ideas, and way that you present your thoughts (e.g., spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure).

5. **Letters of Recommendation:** Two (2) letters of recommendation are required.
 - One letter must be written by a faculty member, who can address your academic abilities and potential to complete an academically rigorous professional program
 - One letter must be written by a previous/present employer or supervisor of a paid/volunteer experience

The letters must be on letterhead stationery (where applicable) and should contain contact information for the recommender in case additional information is needed. In these letters, the recommender should address your contributions to the teaching profession, the quality of your service, and your professional development during your employment or volunteer experience.

Letters need to be submitted electronically to: ed-apps@umd.edu

6. **Application Deadline:** Applications are to be submitted by December 1st of each year. Applications *must* be complete when submitted, students are able to find the application at the bottom of the page via the following link: education.umd.edu/studentinfo/undergraduate_info/ugprogramrequire.html

Please note that meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission into the Professional Teacher Education program in Special Education.