

Masters Graduate Programs

Special Education Master's Degree Programs



COLLEGE OF
EDUCATION

2021-2022

Special Education Program

Department of Counseling, Higher Education, and Special Education
(CHSE)

3214 Benjamin Building

University of Maryland

College Park, MD 20742

TEL: 301.405.8384

FAX: 301.314.9995

General Inquiries Email: edsprgrad@deans.umd.edu

For additional information, visit the EDSP website:

<https://education.umd.edu/academics/departments/chse>

https://education.umd.edu/academics/programs/teacher-certification?program_type=43&department=28523&division=36596

Visit the UMD Graduate School website:

<http://www.gradschool.umd.edu/>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	INTRODUCTION	1
II.	ADMISSION	1
	Application Materials.....	2
	Admission Requirements for MEd, MA.....	2
	Graduate Admission Committee Review.....	3
	Provisional Admission.....	3
	Acceptance or Defer of Admission.....	3
III.	MASTER’S OF EDUCATION CERTIFICATION (MCERT) PROGRAMS ..	4
	Option 1: MEd with Generic Age Base and Severe Disabilities (MCert/2 year; full time; 50 credit hours)	4
	Option 2: MEd with Certification in Severe Disabilities (MSev; full or part time; 30 credit hours)	5
IV.	MASTER’S OF EDUCATION (MED) SPECIALTY and BS-M.Ed Combined PROGRAM	6
V.	MASTER’S OF ARTS (MA) PROGRAM	9
	Procedures for Comprehensive Examinations for MA and AGS Students	11

Appendix A: **Program Sequences for EDSP Master’s of Education Certification Programs**

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 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)
- M.Ed. Combined program (Noncertification) (18 credits + 12 undergraduate credits) *Available only to undergraduate initial certification students*

The Special Education Program in the College of Education at the University of Maryland ranked #14 for 2021 in the US News and World Report. In addition, the university community, the state of Maryland, and the Washington, DC metropolitan area provide an unparalleled setting for graduate study. The program's proximity to the United States Congress, advocacy and professional organizations, and governmental agencies, including the US Department of Education - Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), provides opportunities for on-site experiences for graduate students. Public and private schools in Maryland provide opportunities for graduate students to gain experience with a culturally and linguistically diverse student population in urban, suburban, and rural settings.

I. ADMISSION

Information on the University of Maryland's (UMD) *Admission Policies* for graduate programs can be found at <http://www.gradschool.umd.edu/>. To be considered for admission to the Graduate School, each applicant must include the following:

- Completion of the University of Maryland Graduate Application (**online**)
- Payment of a non-refundable application fee (\$75)
- 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:
- **M.Ed./Certification:**

- March 12, 2022 (Fall 2022 Domestic)
- March 15, 2022 (Fall 2022 International)
- **M.Ed. (without certification):**
- January 12, 2022 (Spring 2022 Domestic) (Autism and Early Childhood off-campus programs only)
- May 11, 2022 (Summer I 2022 Domestic) (Autism and Early Childhood off-campus programs only)
- June 14, 2022 (Summer II 2022 Domestic) (Autism and Early Childhood off-campus programs only)
-
- March 11, 2022 (Fall 2022 International) (On-campus M.Ed. programs only)
- April 1, 2022 (Fall 2022 Domestic) (On-Campus programs only)
- August 9, 2022 (Fall 2022 Domestic) (Off-Campus programs only)
- **M.A.**
- December 15
- **Combined Program**
- TBA

Admission requirements for international students can be found at:

<https://www.gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/international-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: <http://registrar.umd.edu/Residency/resreclassforms.html>
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. **International Applicants** can find information on the application process at Office of International Services [International Admissions The University of Maryland Graduate School \(umd.edu\)](https://www.gradschool.umd.edu/international-admissions). The IES office also assists international students with questions about immigration, housing, fees, orientation to university, and community life. [International Students | Global Maryland, University of Maryland \(umd.edu\)](https://www.gradschool.umd.edu/international-students)

Admission Requirements for MEd and MA

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. Three (3) 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;
4. Statement of goals including: (a) reason for pursuing the Master's degree; (b) a description of professional experiences which include working with children, adolescents, and/or adults with disabilities; (c) if seeking certification, the applicant must indicate which teacher preparation (1 Year; 2 Year; or Severe Disability Certification) (d) other information the applicant feels is pertinent to the decision of the admissions committee, such as research interests and experiences;
5. Evidence of writing skills via the statement of goals;
6. An interview in person or by phone with a faculty and/or staff member from the Special Education program; the interview will be arranged by a faculty or staff member.

Graduate Admission Committee Review

When a Master's application is complete, the Special Education Graduate Admission Committee reviews it and recommends one of the following outcomes for the applicant:

- Admitted
- Provisionally admitted
- Rejected

If a recommendation for admit or provisionally admit is made, a faculty advisor is assigned. The recommendation is processed by both the CHSE Department as well as the University of Maryland Graduate School for a final decision. Once the process is complete, the applicant will receive notification of a decision from the Graduate School. If admission is recommended, the Graduate School sends a formal *Offer of Admission* letter. This letter serves as the student's permit to register. The chair of the Department of Counseling, Higher Education, and Special Education will inform accepted students of the recommendation for admission. In the letter is the Notification of Intent to Register. Please notify Ms. Carol Scott, the department's Graduate Studies Coordinator, of your intent to register by sending the second page via email to cscott18@umd.edu as soon as possible. It is the student's responsibility to contact the assigned advisor for an initial advising appointment to plan a Program of Study.

Provisional Admission

The EDSP Graduate Admissions Committee may recommend provisional admission for a limited number of applicants. Provisional admission is offered when the applicant does not meet the grade point requirements, but the applicant's supporting credentials are strong. Stipulated 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).

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:

[University of Maryland Health Center | UMD Health Center](#)

Immunization information:

[Immunization Clinic UMD Health Center](#)

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 minimum of one credit 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: <https://gradschool.umd.edu/forms>

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.

EDSP Certification Program Sequences can be found in Appendix A and at the CHSE website: http://education.umd.edu/CHSE/SE_overview.html

MCert students are assigned a faculty advisor when admitted. They must attend an advising session each semester to ensure registration is continuous and they are registered for the required courses in their certification sequence.

MCert Option 1: MEd in Special Education with Generic Elementary/Middle Age Base and Severe Disabilities Certification (MCert/2 Year; full time; 50 credit hours)

This MCert option is completed in two, full-time academic years. Students select preparation in the elementary/middle school age base certification area (EL/M) and also earn certification in severe disabilities (SD). This program includes field experiences during the first year of the program and a yearlong internship in the second year. Students earn a Master's of Education (MEd) degree and are recommended for Maryland special education certification in the following age base, generic certification area and severe disabilities:

1. Elementary/Middle (EL/M) Special Education: Grades 1-8 (MSDE: Elementary/Middle)
2. Severe Disabilities (Birth to age 21)

The two year MCert program focuses on the following:

- 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

Graduates will be eligible for special education teacher certification in the state of Maryland, with reciprocity in 48 states, all U.S. territories, and the Department of Defense Schools.

Graduation requirements include: Maintain an overall 3.00 GPA or above completing all required course work and internships in EDSP program with a grade of “B-” or better; attain MD qualifying scores on Praxis II – Special Education (0354/5354) prior to Internship II; receive passing ratings on the Performance Based Assessment (PBA) in Internship I and II; receive favorable ratings on the College of Education Foundational Competencies; and pass the national edTPA assessment.

MCert Option 2: MEd in Special Education with Certification in Severe Disabilities
(MSev/Full or part time; 30 credit hours)

This certification option is only for teachers who are already certified as a special educator in the state of Maryland. Coursework and field experiences to obtain certification in severe disabilities are offered. This option requires individualized advising by a faculty member in the Special Education Severe Disabilities area to determine the program of study. *A copy of a valid MSDE Generic Special Education Certificate must be provided in the graduate application.*

**Master’s of Education (MEd) MCert Program Requirements
for Students and Advisors**

1. "Attend Required EDSP 425 Meetings and Complete Orientation Modules: Information regarding certification, accreditation, foundational competencies, and graduate information is presented. All teacher candidates must attend throughout the semester..
2. Continuous Registration: Registration and advising is required <u>every semester</u> (including any summer session and if graduating in the summer).
3. Praxis II: The Praxis II 0354/5354 Special Education: Core Knowledge and Application test must be passed. Information is found at the following website: http://www.ets.org
4. Submit Program of Study: A Program of Study is developed with the advisor and must include all required coursework (graduate credit is NOT given for coursework below the 400 level). The Program of Study form must be submitted via UAchieve.

5. Transfer Credit: Up to six credits of graduate coursework may be transferred into the master's program with the advisor's approval. If applicable, complete the Transfer or Inclusion of Credit Form, available on the Graduate School webpage: https://gradschool.umd.edu/forms
6. 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 <i>Important Dates for All Graduating Graduate Students</i> found at: http://www.education.umd.edu/studentinfo/graduate_info/importantdates.html Apply for graduation at the following website: Graduate Degree Clearance Services Office of the Registrar (umd.edu) Note: Students must be registered the semester of graduation.

IV. MASTER'S OF EDUCATION (MEd) SPECIALTY and COMBINED PROGRAM

All Master's 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.

EDSP Specialty Program (a Master's degree without certification)

The MEd Specialty Program (30 credit hours) is for individuals with the following backgrounds:

- Certified special educators who graduated from the UMD Special Education Program
- Certified special educators who graduated from other programs
- Allied professions such as occupational therapy, physical therapy, or speech therapy; these individuals do not wish to obtain special education certification
- Early childhood, elementary, or secondary general educators

In the State of Maryland, teachers with initial certification in a general education area can take the Special Education **PRAXIS II** test 0354/5354 (<http://www.ets.org>) to obtain special education certification through the Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Certification and Accreditation. For more information, visit MSDE's website at: <http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/about/Pages/DEE/Certification/index.aspx>

Although the option for credentialing with the PRAXIS is available to those with initial certification in general education, there is no substitute for our high-quality Master's program. Students who complete our program gain expertise in advanced instructional strategies for students with disabilities, legal and policy information about special education, including implementing a high-quality IES in light of recent Supreme Court decisions, and courses on severe disabilities. We strongly encourage students from all backgrounds to apply.

For more information on the Specialty Program, contact:

Amanda Ross Benedick
 Research Assistant
 Department of Counseling, Higher Education, and Special Education
 University of Maryland
 College Park, Maryland 20742
 Email: afhrb51@umd.edu

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

M.Ed. Specialty Program Coursework

<p>1. Continuous Registration and Time Frame: 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: 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 • One of the following: EDSP 600 Issues and Trends in Educating Individuals with Disabilities EDSP 675 Legal and Policy Foundations for Individuals with Disabilities • Four courses from this list: EDSP 484/684 Literacy Approaches in Elementary/Middle Special Education (3) EDSP 487/687 Family Partnerships in Special Education (3) EDSP 404/604 Education of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (3) EDSP 490/690 Teacher Candidate Research Seminar in Special Education (3) • Two graduate coursework electives OR an additional class from the above list
<p>3. Submit Program of Study: A Program of Study is developed with the advisor and must include all required coursework (graduate credit is NOT given for coursework below the 400 level). The form is found at UAchieve</p>
<p>4. Transfer Credit: Up to six credits of graduate coursework may be transferred into the Master's specialty program with the advisor's approval. If applicable, complete the Transfer or</p>

<p>Inclusion of Credit Form, available on the Graduate School webpage: https://gradschool.umd.edu/forms</p>
<p>5. GPA: Maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.0 in courses approved for graduation. 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.</p>
<p>6. Submit Application for Graduation: Published deadlines each semester for submitting the Application for Graduation are found in <i>Important Dates for All Graduating Graduate Students</i> found at: http://www.education.umd.edu/studentinfo/graduate_info/importantdates.html Apply for graduation at the following website: Graduate Degree Clearance Services Office of the Registrar (umd.edu)</p> <p>Note: Students must be registered the semester of graduation.</p>

EDSP BS-M.Ed. Combined Program

Undergraduates in UMD’s Special Education Teacher Preparation Program may apply to the UMD Graduate School in their junior year in order to participate in the EDSP Combined Program. If accepted, four classes in the senior year (EDSP484/684, 487/687, 404/604, and 490/690) will “double-count” for both undergraduate and graduate credit. Thus, the Master’s degree can be achieved in 18 post-graduation credits. This program is only available for UMD juniors in the initial certification program. For more information on the Double Count Program, contact:

Dr. Seyma Intepe-Tingir
Clinical Assistant Professor
Department of Counseling, Higher Education, and Special Education
University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland 20742
Email: sintepe@umd.edu

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

M.Ed. Combined Program Coursework

<p>1. Continuous Registration and Time Frame: 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: 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

<p>EDSP 671 Qualitative Methodologies in Special Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the following: EDSP 673 Evaluating Evidence-Based Practices in Special Education EDSP 625 Seminar on Severe Disabilities • One of the following: EDSP 600 Issues and Trends in Educating Individuals with Disabilities EDSP 675 Legal and Policy Foundations for Individuals with Disabilities • Four double-count courses: (taken in the senior year of the undergraduate program) EDSP 484/684 Literacy Approaches in Elementary/Middle Special Education (3) EDSP 487/687 Family Partnerships in Special Education (3) EDSP 404/604 Education of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (3) EDSP 490/690 Teacher Candidate Research Seminar in Special Education (3) • Two graduate coursework electives OR an additional class from the above list
<p>3. Submit Program of Study: A Program of Study is developed with the advisor and must include all required coursework (graduate credit is NOT given for coursework below the 400 level). The form is found at UAchieve.</p>
<p>4. Transfer Credit: PLEASE NOTE: Students in the EDSP Double Count Program cannot transfer in outside coursework</p>
<p>5. GPA: Maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.0 in courses approved for graduation. 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.</p>
<p>6. Submit Application for Graduation: Published deadlines each semester for submitting the Application for Graduation are found in <i>Important Dates for All Graduating Graduate Students</i> found at: http://www.education.umd.edu/studentinfo/graduate_info/importantdates.html Apply for graduation at the following website: Graduate Degree Clearance Services Office of the Registrar (umd.edu)</p> <p>Note: Students must be registered the semester of graduation.</p>

V. MASTER’S OF ARTS (MA) PROGRAM

Students selecting the MA program (**36 credit hours**) must conduct research and defend a thesis.

Master’s of Arts (MA) Program Requirements for Students and Advisors

<p>1. Continuous Registration and Time Frame: Registration and advising is required every semester (including the summer session if graduating). The MEd degree must be completed in five years.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required Coursework (as of 1/22/15): The following coursework is required: • Two of the following research methods courses:

<p>EDMS 645 Quantitative Research Methods I EDSP 670 Single Subject Research in Special Education EDSP 671 Qualitative Methodologies in Special Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • EDSP 675 Legal and Policy Foundations for Individuals with Disabilities
<p>2. Research Courses: The student develops and implements a research study under the direction of the advisor and selects additional coursework aligned to the area of research.</p>
<p>3. Submit Program of Study: A Program of Study is developed with the advisor and must include 600 level coursework (graduate credit is NOT given for coursework below the 400 level). The form is found at UAchieve.</p>
<p>4. Transfer Credit: Up to six credits of graduate coursework may be transferred into the master’s program with the advisor’s approval. If applicable, complete the Transfer or Inclusion of Credit Form, available on the Graduate School webpage: : https://gradschool.umd.edu/forms</p>
<p>5. GPA: Maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.0 in courses approved for graduation. 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.</p>
<p>6. Comprehensive Examination: Three hours of written examinations are required. Procedures are presented below.</p>
<p>7. Submit Application for Graduation: Published deadlines each semester for submitting the Application for Graduation are found in <i>Important Dates for All Graduating Graduate Students</i> found at: http://www.education.umd.edu/studentinfo/graduate_info/importantdates.html Apply for graduation at the following website: : Graduate Degree Clearance Services Office of the Registrar (umd.edu) Note: Students must be registered the semester of graduation.</p>
<p>8. Thesis Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRB: If students use human subjects as part of their thesis research, refer directly to the https://research.umd.edu/IRB/ for procedures and application • Appointment of Thesis Committee: In the semester in which completion of the thesis is anticipated, the student requests the appointment of the oral defense committee by filing the <i>Nomination of Thesis or Dissertation Committee</i> 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/graduate_info/importantdates.html Thesis Committee makeup must be in compliance with Graduate School regulations and have three (3) members; two (2) must be regular tenured or tenured-track University of Maryland graduate faculty, the third may be a member of the University of Maryland graduate faculty from the following categories: regular tenured or tenure-track member, adjunct member, or special member. The student’s advisor serves as Chair of the committee and must be a regular member of the UM graduate faculty. Adjunct members may not serve as chair unless the Graduate School grants special permission.

- Oral Defense: Student defends thesis research orally before an examining committee.
- The chair (advisor) of the committee and/or student selects the time and place for the oral examination and notifies the other members of the committee and the candidate. The candidate is obligated to see that each member of the committee has at least ten days to examine a copy of the thesis prior to the examination. A student will be admitted to final oral examination only if all other requirements for the degree have been met. The student takes a final oral examination of not less than one hour in defense of the thesis.
- Submit Thesis in Digital Format: Submit thesis and pay fee by the published deadline in *Important Dates for All Graduating Graduate Students* found at: http://www.education.umd.edu/studentinfo/graduate_info/importantdates.html

**Procedures for Comprehensive Examinations
for MA Students**

The student's advisor is responsible for preparing the comprehensive examination in accordance with each student's program.

Applying for the Comprehensive Examination:

1. A Comprehensive Examination Application must be completed and returned by the specified date. One date each semester is designated for examinations by the Special Education program. However, arranged dates can be set up with your advisor and the CHSE Graduate Programs Coordinator, Ms. Carol Scott (cscott18@umd.edu), under special circumstances.
2. Ms. Carol Scott, Coordinator of CHSE Graduate Programs, notifies all graduate students of the dates selected each semester by email. The application for the examination is attached to the email.
3. The student meets with his/her advisor to prepare for the examination and to determine the 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 examination that is given to the Program Director via the Coordinator.
10. The Program Director notifies the student of the results in writing; a copy of this letter is sent to the College of Education Graduate Office and to the advisor.
11. A copy of the Program Director's letter, examination responses, and readers' evaluations are kept in the Coordinator's office.
12. Students who fail the examination must generate a remedial plan with their advisor. The examination can be retaken only once. After a second failure, the student may appeal in writing to his/her advisor and department chair for permission to take an examination a third time. This appeal is forwarded to the Associate Dean in Graduate Studies for final approval.

Appendix A

Program Sequences for EDSP Master's of Education Programs

MCert Option 1: MEd in Special Education with Generic Elementary/Middle Age Base and Severe Disabilities Certification (MCert/2 Year; full time; 50 credit hours)

MCert Option 2: MEd in Special Education with Certification in Severe Disabilities (MSev/Full or part time; 30 credit hours)

M.Ed. Combined Program/Specialty Program (Non-cert) Advising Form



EDSP MCert 2 Year Program
Elementary/Middle (EL/M) Generic Certification: Grades 1-8 AND Severe Disabilities Certification

Master's of Education (MEd) in Special Education
 Department of Counseling, Higher Education, & Special Education
 University of Maryland

	Fall Semester I			Spring Semester 2	
EDSP 470 If taken, take EDSP 411	Introduction to Special Education (3) Universal Design for Learning (3)	TBD Th 1:15	EDSP 615	Assessment in Special Education	W 1:15
EDSP 613	Behavior & Classroom Management in Special Education	T 4:15	EDSP 616	Reading and Writing Instruction in Special Education I	M 1:15
EDSP 602	Instruction of Students with Severe Disabilities I**	W 4:15	EDSP 603	Instruction of Students with Physical Disabilities**	T 1:15
EDSP 443	Language Development and Reading Acquisition*	W 1:15	EDSP 614	Instruction of Students with Severe Disabilities II**	M 4:15
EDSP 652	Curriculum and Instruction: Elementary/Middle Special Education	M 1:15	EDSP 683	Assessment & Instruction in Mathematics	Th 4:15
Attend Required EDSP 425 Meetings and Complete Orientation Modules: Information regarding certification, accreditation, foundational competencies, and graduate information is presented. All teacher candidates must attend throughout the semester.				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take Praxis II Placement: 1 hr/week for 8 weeks in tutoring program 2 hrs/week for 3 weeks of adaptive feeding 	
	Fall Semester 3			Spring Semester 4	
EDSP 692	Graduate Internship I: Elementary/Middle 3 half days (12 hours/week) for 15 weeks • 3 - ½ days/week/15 weeks • Professional Based Assessments • Reflective Teaching Project		EDSP 695	Graduate Internship II: Elementary/Middle Special Education (FT for 15 weeks)	6
EDSP 684	Literacy Approaches in Elementary/Middle Special Education II*	T 1:15	EDSP 690	Teacher Candidate Research Seminar in Special Education • Instructional Inquiry Project, edTPA • Apply for Graduation, Submit Program of Study	
EDSP 604	Education of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders**	W 4:15	Spring Requirements ___ Apply for Graduation and Complete Program of Study Form ___ Complete Instructional Inquiry Project in EDSP 690 ___ Complete edTPA in EDSP 695 Not here 625, 600,675,670, 671, 673 (K said spring), edms 645 edsp 6		
EDSP 687***	Family Partnerships in Special Education	M 4:15			
EDSP 411	UDL in Special Education (optional)	Th 1:15			
	Fall Requirements ___ Pass Praxis II before Internship II EDSP 695				

*Approved MSDE Reading Courses for Elementary/Middle Special Education Certification

**Approved MSDE Severe Disability Certification Coursework

***course may be offered in the summer

Master's of Education (MEd) Severe Disabilities Only Certification Program

This MEd program is available only when the applicant has Maryland Special Education Certification in one or more age-based areas (i.e., Early Childhood; Elementary; or Secondary/Middle Special Education). Prior to admission to this program, a copy of a valid MSDE Generic Special Education Certificate must be provided in the application. See Notes 1, 2, and 3 below.

*Course may be offered in summer.

**If teaching full-time, replace EDSP Field Placement with an elective.

Fall Semester			Spring Semester		
EDSP 602	Instruction of Students with Severe Disabilities I (with field placement)	3 W 4:15	EDSP 603	Instruction of Students with Physical Disabilities (with field placement)	3 T 1:15
EDSP 411	Universal Design for Learning	3 Th 1:15	EDSP 614	Instruction of Students with Severe Disabilities II	3 M 4:15
EDSP 687*	Family Partnerships in Special Education	3 M 4:15	EDSP 670	Single Case Design in Special Education	3
Credits/Total Credits:		9/30		Elective	3
			Credits/Total Credits:		21/30
Fall Semester					
EDSP 604	Education of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders	3 W 4:15			
EDSP 625	Seminar in Severe Disabilities • Seminar Paper Requirement	3 M 4:15			
	Elective	3			
Credits/Total Credits:		30/30			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply for Graduation • Complete Program of Study • Write Seminar Paper 					

Note 1: If not certified by MSDE in Generic Special Education, then EDSP 600 and one of the following courses must be taken: EDMS 645 or EDSP 671 to receive the M.Ed. degree in Severe Disabilities. Certification cannot be recommended.

Note 2: For applicants who are certified by MSDE in General Education who will take the Special Education Praxis II to obtain MSDE's Generic Special Education after acceptance into this program, a copy of a valid MSDE Generic Special Education Certificate must be provided **immediately upon receipt** to remove the EDMS 645 or EDSP 671 and EDSP 600 course requirements from your program of study.

Note 3: The program can be completed on a full or part time basis.

EDSP Combined Program / Specialty Program Advising Sheet (08.21.21)

Name and UID:

Email: _____ Phone: _____ Advisor: _____

Fall Year:	Winter / Spring Year:	Summer Year:
Fall Year:	Winter / Spring Year:	Summer Year:
Fall Year:	Winter / Spring Year:	Summer Year:
Fall Year:	Winter / Spring Year:	Summer Year:

Required Double Count/Specialty Coursework:

1. One (or both) of the following courses:
 EDSP 600 Issues and Trends in Educating Individuals with Disabilities (3) or
 EDSP 675 Policy Issues in Special Education (3)
2. Two of following three research methods coursework:
 EDMS 645 Quantitative Research Methods I (3) OR
 EDSP 670 Single Subject Research in Special Education (3) OR
 EDSP 671 Qualitative Methodologies in Special Education (3)
3. One (or both) of following research seminars:
 EDSP 625 Seminar on Severely Handicapping Conditions (3) OR
 EDSP 673 Evaluating Evidence-Based Practices in Special Education (3)
4. Four Required Courses:
 EDSP 484/684 Literacy Approaches in Elementary/Middle Special Education (3)
 EDSP 487/687 Family Partnerships in Special Education (3)
 EDSP 404/604 Education of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (3)
 EDSP 490/690 Teacher Candidate Research Seminar in Special Education (3)
5. 0-6 credits of fgraduate coursework electives