

# Special Education Master's Degree Programs



COLLEGE OF  
EDUCATION

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Visit the UMD Graduate School website:  
<http://www.gradschool.umd.edu/>

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

**MCert Option 1:** MEd in Special Education with Generic Elementary/Middle Age Base Certification (MCert/1 Year; Full time; 38 credit hours) [**Program Suspended**]

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

**MCert Option 3:** MEd in Special Education with Certification in Severe Disabilities (MSev/Full or part time; 30 credit hours)

# 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) [**currently suspended**]
- 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)

The Special Education Program in the College of Education at the University of Maryland ranked #11 for 2017 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: **MEd Cert programs – March 1; MEd/NonCert programs – June 15; MA program December 1**

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/certificate:

<b>Degree</b>	<b>Test<sup>1,4</sup></b>	<b>UM Code</b>
<b>MA</b>	GRE	5814
<b>MEd</b>	Basic Skills Test <sup>2</sup>	5814
	TOFEL <sup>3</sup>	5814
	IELTS <sup>3</sup>	5814

<sup>1</sup>Applicant must request the testing authority to send examination scores to the University of Maryland: UM Code is 5814.

<sup>2</sup>For those applying to the MEd programs, you must pass one of the MSDE Approved Basic Skills Tests (see below). For MEd applicants who are seeking certification, there is no exception to any test cut-off scores. For information on Praxis tests and test preparation materials go to: <http://www.ets.org/>

<sup>3</sup>International students must demonstrate proficiency in the English language by taking the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) <http://www.ets.org/toefl/> or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) <http://www.ielts.org/default.aspx>

## Basic Skills (Praxis Core, SAT, GRE, or ACT)

All beginning teachers in all content areas must take <i>Praxis Core</i> , <i>SAT</i> , <i>GRE</i> , or <i>ACT</i> .	<b>Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators</b> Reading (sr - 85 min.) and Writing (sr & cr - 100 min.) and Mathematics (sr - 85 min.)	Test Code	MD Score
		<u>5712</u>	156
<u>5722</u>	162		
<u>5732</u>	150		
<b>Praxis I: PPST/CPPST Prior to September 1, 2014</b> Reading Writing Mathematics	<u>5710</u>	527	
	<u>5720</u>		
	<u>5730</u>		
<b>SAT</b> (prior to April, 1995) (math and verbal)		-	1000
<b>SAT</b> (after April, 1995) (math and verbal or math and critical reading)		-	1100
<b>GRE</b> (prior to September 1, 2011) (math and verbal)		-	1000
<b>GRE</b> (taken as of September 1, 2011) (math and verbal)		-	297
<b>ACT</b>		-	24

Applicants may meet the testing requirement by submitting individual scores at or above the state qualifying scores on *Praxis: CORE (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics)* or a composite score that is at or above the state qualifying score on *Praxis I, SAT, GRE, or ACT*. The composite score on the *SAT* taken prior to April 1995 is 1000; the composite score on the *SAT* taken after April 1995 is 1100. The composite score on the *GRE* taken prior to September 1, 2011 is 1000; the composite score on the *GRE* taken as of September 1, 2011 is 297. The composite score on the *ACT* is 24. The composite score on the Praxis I (PPST/CPPST) taken prior to September 1, 2014 is 527. NOTE: Individuals who have presented qualifying scores on any of the Praxis I tests taken prior 9/1/14 can meet the certification basic skills requirement by completing the remaining requirement(s) through CORE.

- International Applicants** can find information on the application process at Office of International Services <http://www.international.umd.edu/ies/> The IES office also assists international students with questions about immigration, housing, fees, orientation to university, and community life.

### Admission Requirements for MEd and MA

- Grade point average of 3.0 or better (based on a 4.0 system) from an accredited undergraduate institution;
- Grade point average of 3.5 or better (based on a 4.0 system) in any previous graduate work from an accredited institution;
- Basic Skills Test scores for MEd applicants: See above.
- Test scores for MA applicants: the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) placing the student at or above the 40th percentile rank;
- 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;

6. 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;
7. Evidence of writing skills via the statement of goals;
8. 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](mailto: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. For MEd applicants who are seeking certification, there is no exception to any Praxis test cut-off scores. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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:  
<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 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](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 Certification (MCert/1 Year; Full time; 38 credit hours)**

**Please note: this program is currently suspended.**

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 education certification in the following age base, generic certification area:

Elementary/Middle (EL/M) Special Education      Grades 1-8 (MSDE: Elementary/Middle)

The one year MCert program focuses on the following:

- Instruction for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders, Learning Disabilities, Behaviors Disorders, Physical Disabilities, Intellectual Disabilities, ADHD/ADD, 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 certification reciprocity in 49 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 internship 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 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 3: 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. <b>Attend Annual Red Folder Meeting/Orientation:</b> Information regarding certification, accreditation, foundational competencies, and graduate information is presented. All teacher candidates must attend in August.
2. <b>Continuous Registration:</b> Registration and advising is required <u>every semester</u> (including any summer session and if graduating in the summer).
3. <b>Praxis II:</b> The Praxis II 0354/5354 Special Education: Core Knowledge and Application test must be passed at the cut-off score of 151 prior to the final semester of the yearlong internship. Information is found at the following website: <a href="http://www.ets.org">http://www.ets.org</a>
4. <b>Submit Program of Study:</b> 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. <b>Transfer Credit:</b> 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: <a href="https://gradschool.umd.edu/forms">https://gradschool.umd.edu/forms</a>
6. <b>GPA:</b> Maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.0 in courses approved for graduation <b>and satisfactorily complete all required course work in the EDSP certification program with a grade of “B-“ or better.</b> 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. <b>Submit Application for Graduation:</b> Published deadlines each semester for submitting the Application for Graduation are found in <i>Important Dates for All Graduating Graduate Students</i> found at: <a href="http://www.education.umd.edu/studentinfo/graduate_info/importantdates.html">http://www.education.umd.edu/studentinfo/graduate_info/importantdates.html</a> Apply for graduation at the following website: <a href="http://www.testudo.umd.edu/apps/candapp">http://www.testudo.umd.edu/apps/candapp</a> <b>Note:</b> Students <b>must</b> be registered the semester of graduation.

#### **IV. MASTER'S OF EDUCATION (MEd) SPECIALTY and DOUBLE COUNT PROGRAM**

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.

##### **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>

For more information on the Specialty Program, contact:

Dr. Susan De La Paz  
Director of Graduate Studies in Special Education  
Department of Counseling, Higher Education, and Special Education  
University of Maryland  
College Park, Maryland 20742  
Email: [sdelapaz@umd.edu](mailto:sdelapaz@umd.edu)  
Phone: 301.405.2153

##### **EDSP BS Double Count Program**

Undergraduates in the Special Education Teacher Preparation Program can apply to the UMD Graduate School in their junior year to participate in the EDSP Double Count Program in their senior year. If accepted into the graduate school, teacher candidates enroll in four specified classes at the graduate level. The four courses (12 credits) double count as 12 credits in their Master's of Education Specialty program. The teacher candidates accepted into 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:

Dr. Frances L. Kohl  
 Special Education Program  
 Department of Counseling, Higher Education, and Special Education  
 University of Maryland  
 College Park, Maryland 20742  
 Email: [flkohl@umd.edu](mailto:flkohl@umd.edu)  
 Phone: 301.405.6490

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

1. <b>Continuous Registration and Time Frame:</b> Registration and advising is required every semester (including the summer session if graduating). The MEd degree must be completed in five years.
2. <b>Required Coursework (as of 1/22/15):</b> The following coursework is required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Two of the following research methods courses:</b>            EDMS 645 Quantitative Research Methods I            EDSP 670 Single Subject Research in Special Education            EDSP 671 Qualitative Methodologies in Special Education</li> <li>• <b>One of the following:</b>            EDSP 673 Evaluating Evidence-Based Practices in Special Education            EDSP 625 Seminar on Severe Disabilities</li> <li>• <b>EDSP 600 Issues and Trends in Educating Individuals with Disabilities</b></li> </ul>
3. <b>Submit Program of Study:</b> 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.
4. <b>Transfer Credit:</b> 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 Inclusion of Credit Form, available on the Graduate School webpage: <a href="http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/about/Pages/DEE/Certification/index.aspx">http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/about/Pages/DEE/Certification/index.aspx</a> <b>PLEASE NOTE: Students in the EDSP Double Count Program cannot transfer in coursework except for the 12 double count credits.</b>
5. <b>GPA:</b> 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.
6. <b>Submit Application for Graduation:</b> Published deadlines each semester for submitting the Application for Graduation are found in <i>Important Dates for All Graduating Graduate Students</i> found at: <a href="http://www.education.umd.edu/studentinfo/graduate_info/importantdates.html">http://www.education.umd.edu/studentinfo/graduate_info/importantdates.html</a> Apply for graduation at the following website: <a href="http://www.testudo.umd.edu/apps/candapp">http://www.testudo.umd.edu/apps/candapp</a> <b>Note:</b> Students <b>must</b> be registered the semester of graduation.

## 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

1. <b>Continuous Registration and Time Frame:</b> Registration and advising is required every semester (including the summer session if graduating). The MEd degree must be completed in five years.
2. <b>Required Coursework (as of 1/22/15):</b> The following coursework is required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Two of the following research methods courses:</b> EDMS 645 Quantitative Research Methods I EDSP 670 Single Subject Research in Special Education EDSP 671 Qualitative Methodologies in Special Education</li><li>• <b>One of the following:</b> EDSP 673 Evaluating Evidence-Based Practices in Special Education EDSP 625 Seminar on Severe Disabilities</li><li>• <b>EDSP 600 Issues and Trends in Educating Individuals with Disabilities</b></li></ul>
3. <b>Research Courses:</b> The student develops and implements a research study under the direction of the advisor and selects additional coursework aligned to the area of research.
4. <b>Submit Program of Study:</b> 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.
5. <b>Transfer Credit:</b> 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: <a href="http://www.gradschool.umd.edu/catalog/academic_policies.htm">http://www.gradschool.umd.edu/catalog/academic_policies.htm</a>
6. <b>GPA:</b> 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.
7. <b>Comprehensive Examination:</b> Three hours of written examinations are required. Procedures are presented below.
8. <b>Submit Application for Graduation:</b> Published deadlines each semester for submitting the Application for Graduation are found in <i>Important Dates for All Graduating Graduate Students</i> found at: <a href="http://www.education.umd.edu/studentinfo/graduate_info/importantdates.html">http://www.education.umd.edu/studentinfo/graduate_info/importantdates.html</a> <b>Apply for graduation at the following website:</b> <a href="http://www.testudo.umd.edu/apps/candapp">http://www.testudo.umd.edu/apps/candapp</a> <b>Note:</b> Students <u>must</u> be registered the semester of graduation.
9. <b>Thesis Requirements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>IRB:</b> If students use human subjects as part of their thesis research, refer directly to the <a href="http://www.umresearch.umd.edu/IRB/index.htm">http://www.umresearch.umd.edu/IRB/index.htm</a> for procedures and application</li><li>• <b>Appointment of Thesis Committee:</b> In the semester in which completion of the thesis is anticipated, the student requests the appointment of the oral defense committee by filing the</li></ul>

*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/graduate\\_info/importantdates.html](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](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](mailto: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 Certification Programs

**MCert Option 1: MEd in Special Education with Generic Elementary/Middle Age Base Certification (MCert/1 Year; Full time; 38 credit hours) [Program Suspended]**

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

**MCert Option 3: MEd in Special Education with Certification in Severe Disabilities (MSev/Full or part time; 30 credit hours)**

and

**Required Courses and Suggested Electives for Students in the EDSP Specialty Program**



**Elementary/Middle (EL/M) Generic Certification: Grades 1-8**  
**EDSP MCert 1 Year Program**  
 Master's of Education in Special Education  
 Department of Counseling, Higher Education, & Special Education  
 University of Maryland

Summer Session I		Summer Session 2		Fall		Spring	
<b>EDSP 470</b> Introduction to Special Education	3	<b>EDSP 616</b> Reading and Writing in Special Education I	3	<b>EDSP 692</b> Graduate Internship I: Elementary/Middle Special Education <i>3 half days/15 weeks</i>	2	<b>EDSP 695</b> Graduate Internship II: Elementary/Middle Special Education <i>5 full days/15 weeks</i>	6
<b>EDSP 443</b> Language Development and Reading Acquisition	3	<b>EDSP 615</b> Assessment in Special Education	3	<b>EDSP 684</b> Literacy Approaches in Elementary/Middle Special Education	3	<b>EDSP 690</b> Teacher Candidate Research Seminar in Special Education	3
				<b>EDSP 613</b> Behavior Management in Special Education	3	<b>EDSP 683</b> Assessment & Instruction in Math in Special Education	3
				<b>EDSP 652</b> Curriculum and Instruction in Elementary/Middle Special Education	3		
				<b>EDSP 687</b> Family Partnerships in Special Education	3		
	6		6		14		12

**Fall Requirements**

- Attend Red Folder Meeting
- Pass Special Education Praxis II before Internship II (EDSP 695)

**Spring Requirements**

- Apply for Graduation and Complete Plan of Study Form
- Complete Reflective Teaching Project in EDSP 692
- Complete Instructional Inquiry Project in EDSP 690
- Complete edTPA in EDSP 695

**Program Suspended.**





**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

	<b>Fall Semester 1</b>			<b>Spring Semester 2</b>	
<b>*EDSP 470</b> <b>If taken, take</b> <b>EDSP 411</b>	Introduction to Special Education (3) Universal Design for Learning (3)	TBD Th 1:15	<b>EDSP 615</b>	Assessment in Special Education*	3 W 1:15
<b>*EDSP 613</b>	Behavior & Classroom Management in Special Education	3 T 4:15	<b>EDSP 616</b>	Reading and Writing Instruction in Special Education I*	3 M 1:15
<b>EDSP 602</b>	Instruction of Students with Severe Disabilities I**	3 W 4:15	<b>EDSP 603</b>	Instruction of Students with Physical Disabilities**	3 T 1:15
<b>EDSP 443</b>	Language Development and Reading Acquisition*	3 W 1:15	<b>EDSP 614</b>	Instruction of Students with Severe Disabilities II**	3 M 4:15
<b>EDSP 652</b>	Curriculum and Instruction: Elementary/Middle Special Education	3 M 1:15	<b>EDSP 683</b>	Assessment & Instruction in Mathematics	3 Th 4:15
<b>•Attend Red Folder Meeting</b> <b>Placement:</b> 2 hrs/week for 6 weeks in high incidence class 2 hrs/week for 6 weeks in low incidence class			<b>• Take Praxis II</b> <b>Placement:</b> 1 hr/week for 8 weeks in tutoring program 2 hrs/week for 3 weeks of adaptive feeding		
	<b>Fall Semester 3</b>			<b>Spring Semester 4</b>	
<b>EDSP 692</b>	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	2	<b>EDSP 695</b>	Graduate Internship II: Elementary/Middle Special Education (FT for 15 weeks)	6
<b>EDSP 684</b>	Literacy Approaches in Elementary/Middle Special Education II*	3 T 1:15	<b>EDSP 690</b>	Teacher Candidate Research Seminar in Special Education • <b>Instructional Inquiry Project, edTPA</b> • <b>Apply for Graduation, Submit Program of Study</b>	3
<b>EDSP 604</b>	Education of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders**	3 W 4:15	<b>Spring Requirements</b> __Apply for Graduation and Complete Program of Study Form __Complete Instructional Inquiry Project in EDSP 690 __Complete edTPA in EDSP 695		
<b>EDSP 687</b>	Family Partnerships in Special Education	3 M 4:15			
<b>EDSP 411</b>	UDL in Special Education (optional)	3 Th 1:15			
	<b>Fall Requirements</b> __Pass Praxis II before Internship II EDSP 695				

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

\*\*Approved MSDE Severe Disability Certification Coursework



## 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		
<b>EDSP 602</b>	Instruction of Students with Severe Disabilities I	3 W 4:15	<b>EDSP 603</b>	Instruction of Students with Physical Disabilities	3 T 1:15
<b>EDSP 604</b>	Education of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders	3 W 4:15	<b>EDSP 614</b>	Instruction of Students with Severe Disabilities II	3 M 4:15
<b>EDSP 625</b>	Seminar in Severe Disabilities • Seminar Paper Requirement	3 M 4:15	<b>EDSP 670*</b>	Single Subject Design in Special Education	3 T 4:15
<b>EDSP 687*</b>	Family Partnerships in Special Education	3 M 4:15	<b>EDSP 402</b>	Field Placement in Special Education Age Base 3 half days/12 weeks <b>OR</b> Elective	3 TBD
<b>EDSP 402**</b>	Field Placement in Special Education Age Base 3 half days/12 weeks <b>OR</b> Universal Design for Learning	3 TBD or Th 1:15		Elective	3
<b>EDSP 411</b>	• <b>Apply for Graduation</b> • <b>Complete Program of Study</b> • <b>Write Approved Seminar Paper</b>	15			15

**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.

## Required Courses and Suggested Electives for Students in the EDSP Specialty Program

**EDSP600 Issues and Trends in Educating Individuals with Disabilities** 3

Select two of the following: 6

**EDMS645 Quantitative Research Methods I**

**EDSP670 Single Subject Research Designs**

**EDSP671 Qualitative Methodologies in Special Education**

**EDSP673 Evaluating Evidence-Based Practices in Special Education** 3  
or **EDSP625 Seminar on Severely Handicapping Conditions**

Remainder of coursework approved by advisor 18

*(Examples only – some courses require permission of instructor and others are offered during summer or winter for specialty students only when a minimum number of students enroll):*

**EDSP470 Introduction to Special Education (3 Credits)**

Designed to give an understanding of the needs of all types of exceptional children.

**EDSP 411 Universal Design for Learning (3 Credits)**

Universal Design for Learning addresses a foundation framework for teacher candidates to learn how to design and implement instruction for a broad range of students with diverse needs rather than rely exclusively on accommodations to instruction for some students.

**EDSP615 Evaluation and Measurement of Exceptional Children and Youth (1-3 Credits)**

Deals with the understanding and interpretation of the results of psychological and educational tests applicable for use with exceptional children and youth.

**EDSP616 Reading and Writing Instruction in Special Education I (3 Credits)**

Assessment and instruction of reading and writing skills and strategies for students in special education.

**EDSP603 Instruction of Students with Physical Disabilities (3 Credits)**

Assessment, curriculum, and instruction for students with physical disabilities. Focus on etiology, environmental and learning adaptations, and assistive technology.

**EDSP604 Education of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (3 Credits)**

Characteristics, needs, assessment, and educational methods for students diagnosed as autistic or having a pervasive development disorder.

**EDSP652 Curriculum and Instruction: Elementary Special Education (3 Credits)**

Methods for instruction of students with disabilities in the general education curriculum. Collaboration with other professionals is included.

**EDSP687 Family Partnerships in Special Education (3 Credits)**

Strategies for communicating and working with families of students with disabilities.

**EDSP613 Behavior and Classroom Management in Special Education (3 Credits)**

Applied behavior analysis for assessment of behavior and learning environments. Behavior and classroom management strategies for students in special education.

**EDSP675 Legal and Policy Foundations for Individuals with Disabilities (3 Credits)**

Regulatory and statutory foundations for public policies addressing the education of children and youth with disabilities.

**EDSP683 Assessment and Instruction in Mathematics in Special Education (3 Credits)**

Instructional methods and assessment in mathematics in special education.

**EDSP684 Reading and Writing Instruction in Special Education II (3 Credits)**

Development of effective reading and writing programs for students receiving special education services. Builds on the foundation established in EDSP 616.

**Total Credits**

**30**