

MASTER OF EDUCATION (MEd)  
IN SPECIAL EDUCATION  
WITH TEACHING ENDORSEMENT IN VISUAL IMPAIRMENT  
EARLY CHILDHOOD

Teacher Endorsement Requirements<sup>1</sup>

- I. Completion of Teacher Education Core.....22 credit hours
- II. Specialization in Visual Impairments.....26 credit hours
- III. Specialization in Special Education Early Childhood..35.5 credit hours

Students may be recommended for licensure to the Utah State Office of Education following completion of the Teacher License Requirements.

Masters of Education  
Graduate Study Requirements<sup>1</sup>

- I. Advanced Graduate Core.....9 credit hours
- II. Establish Supervisory Committee
- III. Qualifying Examination
- IV. Comprehensive Examination
- V. Master Degree Residency Requirement

<sup>1</sup> Students must take at least 6 credit hours outside of the Department of Special Education.

*I. Teacher Education Core<sup>2</sup> (22 credit hours)*

SPED 5010 Human Exceptionality (3 credit hours)

SPED 6011 Teaching Early Childhood and Elementary Students in Inclusive Classrooms (3 credit hours)

SPED 6021 Principles of Assessment and Data Based Decision Making (3 credit hours)

SPED 6022 Principles of Instruction and Behavior Support (3 credit hours)

SPED 6030 Functional Communication (3 credit hours)

SPED 6040 Legal and Policy Issues (3 credit hours)

SPED 6053 Professional Skills Modules (1 credit hour)

Select one of the following

ECS 6633 Curriculum and Instruction in Multilingual Education (3 credit hours)

Or

ED PS 6540 Culture and School Success (3 credit hours)

*II. Specialization in Visual Impairments (26 credit hours)*

SPED 6420 Social and Psychological Implications of Visual Impairment (2 credit hours)

SPED 6430 Ocular Disorders & Examination Techniques/Low Vision (4 credit hours)

SPED 6441 Literary Braille Codes and Technology (4 credit hours)

SPED 6443 Field Studies in Visual Impairments I (0.5 credit hours)

SPED 6450 Teaching Children who are Deafblind (3 credit hours)

SPED 6460 Introduction to Orientation and Mobility (2 credit hours)

SPED 6470 Instructional Management for Children with Visual Impairments (4 credit hours)

SPED 6444 Field Studies in Visual Impairments II (0.5 credit hours)

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<sup>2</sup> Students who hold a valid Utah teaching license in Special Education may not need to complete the following courses. Please check with your faculty advisor.

SPED 6700 Student Teaching Students with Visual Impairments (Birth-5) (6 credit hours-- may possibly be concurrent with SPED 6390 and/or SPED 6400 if all coursework is complete)

*III. Specialization in Early Childhood (35.5 credit hours)*

SPED 6380 Developmental Constructs: Birth to Five Years (2 credit hours)

SPED 6381 Medical and Health Issues in Early Intervention (2 credit hours)

SPED 6310 Curriculum and Programming for Preschool Children with Developmental Delays (3 credit hours)

SPED 6320 Communication, Social, and Play Development and Intervention (3 credit hours)

SPED 6330 Field Studies: Early Childhood (7 credit hours)

SPED 6340 Individualizing for Diverse Learning Needs (3 credit hours)

SPED 6350 Collaborative Early Intervention for Infants and Toddlers (3 credit hours)

SPED 6360 Supporting Young Children with Developmental Delays in Natural Environments (3 credit hours)

SPED 6370 Seminar: Early Childhood (1.5 credit hours)

SPED 6390 Student Teaching: Early Intervention (4 credit hours-- may possibly be concurrent with SPED 6700 if all coursework is complete)

SPED 6400 Student Teaching: Preschool (4 credit hours-- may possibly be concurrent with SPED 6700 if all coursework is complete)

Masters of Education  
Graduate Study Requirements

I. Advanced Graduate Core (9 credit hours)

SPED 6610 Introduction to Research Methods (3 credit hours)

SPED 6620 Parent Professional Collaboration (3 credit hours)

Select one of the following

ED PS 6612 Electronic Communication Aids (3 credit hours)

ED PS 6613 AAC Instructional Strategies (3 credit hours)

Ed PS 6960 Social Emotional Teaching Strategies (3 credit hours)

TL 5315 Reading Methods K-3 (3 credit hours)

and

TL 5316 Reading Methods K-3 Field Experience (1 credit hour). Taken concurrently with TL 5315

ED PS 5005 Writing Methods (3 credit hours)

and

ED PS 5441 Integrating Technology into Reading and Writing (1 credit hour). Taken concurrently with TL 5315, 5320 or ED PSY 5005

TL 5370 Elementary Science Methods (3 credit hours)

and

ED PSY 5442 Integrating Tech into Math, Science, and SS (1 credit hour)  
Taken concurrently with TL 5370

### Other Study Requirements<sup>1</sup>

#### *Establish a Supervisory Committee*

Students must establish a three member supervisory committee which will advise them in completing all study requirements. At least two members of the committee must be on the faculty in the Department of Special Education. In addition, the student must select a faculty member from the Department of Special Education with a tenure track rank of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, or Professor to serve as chair of their supervisory committee.

<sup>2</sup> If desired, students may elect to appoint a member from another department or college at the University of Utah. Generally, a faculty member from outside of the Department of Special Education should have knowledge and expertise in the student's program area of study. All committee members must hold a master's (M.A./M.S./M.Ed.) or doctoral (Ph.D./Ed.D.) degree.

#### *Qualifying Examination*

In order to advance to candidacy for the M.Ed. degree, students are required to pass a qualifying exam that will serve as a performance assessment of their conceptual and writing

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<sup>1</sup> Consult the Department of Special Education Graduate Student Handbook for the requirements for completing these study requirements.

<sup>2</sup> A clinical faculty member who holds a Ph.D. degree and has been approved by the tenure-track faculty and the University Graduate School may also serve as chair of a master of education degree committee. For more information, contact the Department of Special Education, Office of Academic Advising

abilities. **Students must pass the exam *before* they enroll in courses in the advanced graduate core (with the exception of 6610 - Introduction to Research Methods).**

### *Comprehensive Examination*

Students must complete a comprehensive examination to be awarded the Masters of Education (MEd) degree. The comprehensive exam is comprised of a single question developed by the supervisory committee and is designed to assess the breadth of the student's knowledge of the research base in his or her specialization area, the ability to synthesize and integrate the knowledge and skills developed in the specialization and advanced graduate core classes, and the ability to communicate ideas in written and oral form. Students must be enrolled in a minimum of three credit hours during the semester they complete the comprehensive examination. The Qualifying Examination and Comprehensive Examination cannot be taken in the same semester.

### *Master Degree Residency Requirement*

At least 24 credit hours must be in resident study at the University of Utah. Students are expected to complete their masters program within **four years** from the time they are matriculated. Previous graduate work may be applied to the requirements of the program if (a) approved by the student's supervisory committee, and (b) consistent with University Graduate School Policy.

**UPDATED: 4/29/08**