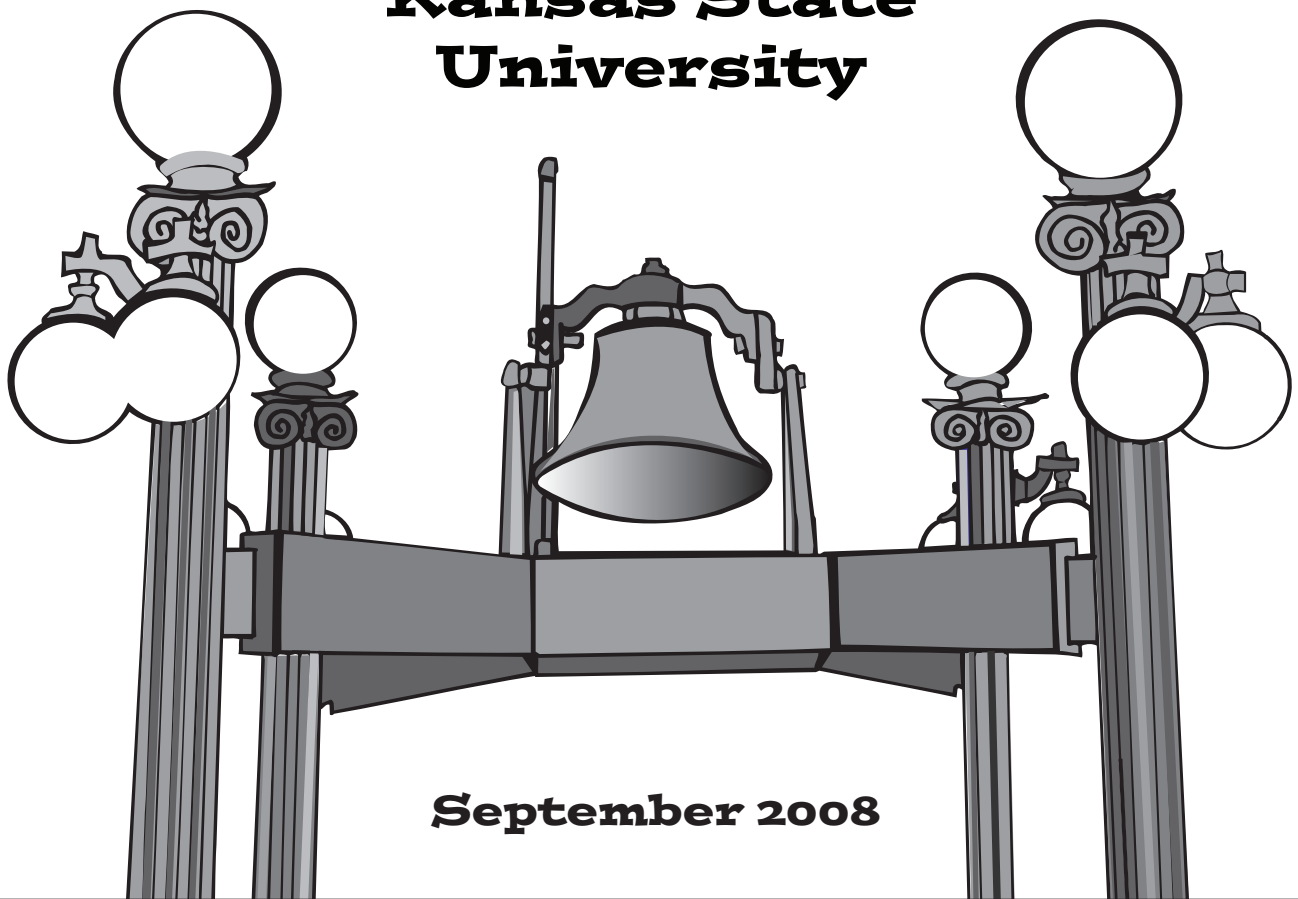


Master of Science in Special Education

**College of Education
Kansas State
University**



September 2008

Master of Science Degree in Special Education

College of Education
Kansas State University

The Mission of the Department of Special Education, Counseling, and Student Affairs in the College of Education is

- To prepare knowledgeable, ethical, caring decision makers for students with special educational needs in the context of diverse and inclusive social groups, communities, families, and students.
- To prepare specialists to serve students and families with specific educational needs through:
 - a) assessment and intervention
 - b) leadership and collaboration
 - c) clinical application, research, and practice

Admission to graduate study is granted by the dean of the Graduate School upon the recommendation of the faculty in the graduate program. To be considered for admission into the degree program the applicant must meet the following requirements.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The Special Education faculty have set the following minimum requirements for admission into this program.

- a. A completed Graduate School application. The application materials may be obtained from the Office of Graduate Studies- address on the following page, or online at <http://www.k-state.edu/grad/gsprospective/apply/>
- b. A statement of objectives which includes:
Your reasons for seeking this degree; any research interests; past and present employment; and future professional plans. If you have a request for a certain advisor, indicate that preference in the statement of objectives.
- c. Relevant prior education equivalent to KSU programs for certification to teach in elementary or secondary education.
- d. Two OFFICIAL transcripts from the institution awarding your bachelor's degree and two OFFICIAL transcripts from all institutions at which any graduate credits were completed. *Copies that are stamped "issued to student" cannot be accepted.* (If you have credits from KSU, we can obtain a copy of the KSU transcript at no cost to you)
- e. Evidence of successful teaching and/or other relevant experience as documented by student teaching reports, letters of recommendation, teaching evaluations, etc.

- f. Additional requirement for international students: Competence in English sufficient to teach individuals with language difficulties (TOEFL score on the paper and pencil version of 600 or higher, or 250 or higher on the computer version, or 79/80 on the IBT version).
- g. At least a 3.00 GPA during junior and senior years. Those with GPAs between 2.65 and 2.99 may be considered for probational admission if it can be demonstrated there is the potential for success in the graduate program. This is most often demonstrated on the basis of GRE test scores.
- h. Three letters of recommendation from college or university educators and/or colleagues or supervisors. The people who complete the recommendation letters should mail them directly to the Office of Graduate Studies.
- i. Graduate School Application Fee
Domestic Students A \$40 application fee is required for all domestic students; ***your application will not be processed without this fee.*** Please make a check out to the KSU Graduate School, and include it with your application. If you are applying online, you may pay by credit card.

International Students A \$55 application fee is required; ***your application will not be processed without this fee.*** Please pay with an *international cashier's check or money order* (in U.S. funds) to the KSU Graduate School, and include it with your application. We cannot accept cash or personal checks from international students. If you are applying online, you may pay by credit card.

The application materials are to be submitted to the following address not the department

Office of Graduate Studies
College of Education
18 Bluemont Hall
1100 Mid-Campus Drive
Kansas State University
Manhattan, KS 66506-5301
785-532-5595
coegrads@ksu.edu

Application Deadlines. Although the College of Education accepts applications throughout the year, the following deadlines are established to allow the faculty adequate time to review the completed application. Failure to meet the deadline could delay admission to the program.

Domestic Students
Fall semester — March 1
Spring semester — October 1
Summer semester — February 1

International Students

Fall semester — February 1

Spring semester — August 1

Summer semester — December 1

For more information about requirements for this degree, contact:

Dr. Warren White

Department of Special Education,

Counseling and Student Affairs

301 Bluemont Hall

Kansas State University

Manhattan, KS 66506

785-532-5542

wwhite@ksu.edu

Non-Degree Status ("Special Student"). In some cases, a student may wish to take a course prior to being admitted in a degree program. In these cases, a person must be admitted for non-degree status (often referred to as a "special student").

No more than nine credit hours earned as a non-degree student may be applied to an advanced degree if the student is later admitted to a degree program. It is to the student's advantage to apply for admission into the degree program as soon as possible after deciding to pursue a degree.

Master's Degree Procedures Handbook. Following admittance to a graduate program, students should obtain the Procedures Handbook from the Office of Graduate Studies in the College of Education. This handbook includes information and guidelines about advising, the program of study, enrollment, transfer credits, the final oral/written exam, and required approval forms.

Graduate candidates are also required to read the KSU Graduate Student Handbook upon admission to a graduate program. The Web site for the handbook, <http://www.k-state.edu/grad/gscurrent/handbook/index.htm>, is provided to candidates in their letter of acceptance from the Graduate School.

Graduate Assistantships. Graduate assistantships are available in the College of Education and in various student service offices across campus. Access www.educ.ksu.edu/grad/assistantships.htm for more information which describes duties and opportunities. Assistantships are commonly available for the academic year (fall and spring semesters). It is requested that completed graduate assistant applications be mailed by April 1 to each department for which the applicant would like to be considered. It is recommended that applicants visit with the appropriate department chair to inquire about specifics of the assistantships available in the department.

Financial Aid. Questions about financial assistance should be directed to the Student Financial Assistance Office, 104 Fairchild Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506, 785-532-6420 finaid@ksu.edu.

THE MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

Kansas State University prepares special education teachers at the graduate level in a cross categorical program with two areas of specialization: *adaptive special education and functional special education*. These programs have been approved for special education endorsement by the Kansas State Department of Education.

Students pursuing a master's degree in special education are required to complete requirements for *full endorsement in at least one area of specialization*. However, when feasible, it is advisable to plan programs leading to endorsement in more than one specialization area. A minimum of 30 hours of academic credit comprising an appropriate program of study must be approved early in the student's program by the student's graduate committee and the Graduate School. The minimum requirements presented on the following pages are helpful guidelines but *students must consult their assigned advisors to plan an appropriate program of study*.

Kansas Endorsement Requirements

Each area of specialization has a separate course sequence designed by the College of Education. These areas have been approved by the Kansas State Board of Education (KSBE) and the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). The special education endorsement can be granted to a person who holds a valid Kansas teaching certificate.

Special education endorsement can be met without completion of the master's degree. However, most students choose to complete the master's degree while working toward endorsement. Completing the master's degree is recommended by the special education faculty. Students who intend to complete a master's degree should apply for admission to the master's program before completing nine hours of graduate coursework.

There are two types of endorsements: full and provisional.

Full Endorsement. Full endorsement is granted to the applicant by the State Department of Education upon completion of the required sequence of courses.

Provisional Endorsement. Provisional endorsement is possible in the adaptive area.

For provisional endorsement, a candidate must complete a specified sequence of courses, including a practicum. Provisional endorsement is for a two (2) year period, and may be renewed for an additional two year period and at the time of renewal, the candidate must have completed 50% of the courses remaining for full endorsement. The entire sequence of courses for full endorsement must be completed within four years.

Endorsement Policies at Kansas State University

- At least half of the credits required for special education endorsement must be earned at Kansas State University, including at least one major area course and one practicum, before the College of Education may recommend for special education endorsement.

- Individuals who hold K-12 certificates in content areas such as music, art, or physical education will need to make up deficiencies in elementary education if they wish to be certified K-12 in special education. Teachers fully certified at the elementary level in special education may add secondary-level certification by completing the secondary-level sequence, including a practicum at that level. Secondary-level teachers must make up deficiencies in elementary education before taking special education courses to add that level.
- Teachers are responsible for initiating their own endorsement.
- Provisional endorsement is not granted until the applicant is employed in a special education position.
- If at all possible, one should apply for endorsement renewal at the end of the spring semester. However, if coursework is not completed by then, the application may be made near the end of the summer session.

PROVISIONAL ENDORSEMENT:

EDSP 710	Education of Exceptional Individuals	3
EDSP 742	Intervention: Emotional and Behavior Disorders	3
EDSP 743	Intervention: Academic Disabilities	3
EDSP 785	Practicum	3

The full sequence must be completed by the end of the fourth year.

PRACTICUM AND PROVISIONAL ENDORSEMENT:

1. You must be admitted to the M.S. Program in Special Education **prior to** the semester you request your first practicum, even if you are not seeking the M.S. degree.
2. You must contact the professor in charge of practicum during the semester **prior to** the semester you are requesting practicum.
3. If you are considering provisional endorsement, EDSP 710 and either 742 or 743 must be taken prior to or concurrently with your first practicum.
4. You must complete EDSP 830 before registering for a second practicum. (EDCEP 715 is a prerequisite for EDSP 830)
5. If you are completing a second practicum in your classroom, you will need to complete some experiences in programs outside of your own. These will be determined on an individual basis.
6. The goal of two practica is to give you experiences with students with disabilities in different service delivery models. You and your practica supervisors will make sure you experience each of these different placements between both practica.
7. You will be required to maintain a comprehensive portfolio that provides evidence of your competence in meeting the requirements of both practica.

LIMITATIONS:

Individuals certified K-12 in subject areas such as art, physical education or music must complete additional courses in elementary education if they wish to receive elementary level special education endorsement. To be recommended for endorsement, the student must have a 3.0 GPA overall in graduate work and must not receive a grade lower than a B in the 12 hours of core courses (EDSP 710, EDSP 742, EDSP 743, AND EDSP 795). The above program is subject to change depending on actions taken by the Kansas State Board of Education.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROGRAM AREAS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

ADAPTIVE DISABILITIES ELEMENTARY OR SECONDARY

A. Prerequisites

Eligible for certification in elementary or secondary education, and one of the following courses

EDSP	323	Exceptional Student in the Secondary School	2
EDSP	324	Exceptional Child in the Regular Classroom	2

B. Required Courses

			Credit
EDSP	710	Education of Exceptional Individuals	3
EDCEP	715	Principles of Assessment	3
EDSP	723	Characteristics of Cognitive Disabilities	3
EDSP	728	Characteristics of Emotional and Behavioral Disorders	3
EDSP	777	Behavior Management of Exceptional Individuals	3
EDSP	778	Technology for Special Education	3
EDSP	742	Interventions: Emotional and Behavioral Disorders	3
EDSP	743	Interventions: Academic Disabilities	3
EDSP	745	Consulting Process in Special Education	3
EDSP	830	Assessment in Special Education (Preq: EDCEP 715)	3
EDSP	848	Transitions in Special Education	3
EDSP	785	Practicum: Adaptive Disabilities*	6

*(2-3 hour practicum for a total of 6 hours)

C. Electives

EDSP	844	Special Education in Secondary Schools	2
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(required for adding secondary level endorsement to elementary level endorsement and for all secondary special education endorsements)

**FUNCTIONAL SPECIAL EDUCATION
ELEMENTARY OR SECONDARY**

All courses required for Adaptive endorsement and:

EDSP	841	Interventions: Functional Disabilities	3
EDSP	849	Interventions: Autistic Spectrum Disorders	3
EDSP	885	Practicum: Functional Disabilities	3

**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN AUTISM
SPECTRUM DISORDERS**

All requirements for Functional Endorsement and:

EDSP	885	Practicum: Autism Spectrum Disorder	3
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Additional Requirements For A Master's Degree

The above program leads to endorsement in special education. Students wishing to complete the master's degree must complete at least 30 hours of graduate level. Committee members will recommend additional course work based on individual student need. This course work will include but not be limited to:

EDSP	886	Seminar: Special Education	or
EDCEP	816	Research Design and Treatment of Data.	

Department of Special Education Master's Portfolio

In lieu of a written Master's exam, each Master's student in special education will complete a portfolio consisting of 19 professional tasks. The portfolio is a substantive product, which also serves as a benchmark in the program. It contains products that a student has developed by fulfilling the requirements of the program. The products that make up the portfolio represent a sample of planning, classroom environment, instruction, and professional responsibilities that are required of personnel in special education. Portfolio tasks were developed as a means to integrate course and professional requirements into relevant and valid outcomes or products. The portfolio is both an index of program progress and an indicator of a student's readiness to work as a professional special educator. Students should work with their advisor from the early stages of their program to begin the collection of products for their portfolio. During the final semester of their program, students will present their portfolio to a committee of special education faculty.

For More Information. Additional information about the program may be obtained from:

Dr. Warren White
Department of Special Education,
Counseling and Student Affairs
301 Bluemont Hall
Kansas State University
Manhattan, KS 66506
785-532-5542
wwhite@ksu.edu

Administrative Option in Special Education Programs. Information concerning Administrative Options may be obtained from:

Dr. Warren White
Kansas State University
Department of Special Education,
Counseling and Student Affairs
301 Bluemont Hall
Manhattan, KS 66506
(785) 532-6349 or 5542
wwhite@ksu.edu