

# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION: SPECIAL NEEDS (M.ED.)

<https://cola.unh.edu/education/program/med/early-childhood-education-special-needs>

## Description

The Department of Education offers the master of education degree in early childhood education with an option in special needs. When completed in conjunction with a degree, certification is available as an early childhood special education teacher (birth through eight years). Certification requirements are additional to the master's degree but may be completed as electives for the degree.

This program is an advanced course of study designed for teachers, administrators, and other early childhood practitioners who wish to improve their professional competence and broaden their career opportunities. The program emphasizes the acquisition of knowledge and competencies in child development (birth through eight years), learning environments, developmentally appropriate curriculum, developmental and cultural diversity, and professional leadership. The coursework culminates in extensive field-based experience.

## Admission Requirements

All admitted students are expected to have had at least one course in child development at the upper division level and at least 200 hours of supervised classroom experience with children from birth through eight years of age, or the equivalent.

In addition to the early childhood core requirements described above, students choosing this option will concentrate on young children who are at risk for, or have, developmental difficulties and special needs. Coursework emphasizes an understanding of the role of the family, community, and social policy in early development and intervention. The program is non categorical in its approach to assessment and educational planning.

## Admission Criteria

In determining admission of students to teacher education graduate programs, several criteria are used:

1. The undergraduate record. The undergraduate overall minimum grade point average for admission is 3.0. The undergraduate grade point average of students admitted to the graduate programs in teacher education is approximately 3.52 (based on 2016 admissions).
2. Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators (Core) exam scores are required. Applicants must obtain, at a minimum, a qualifying score (as set by the state of New Hampshire at the time of testing) on all three (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics) Core exams in order to be considered for admission. Current NH qualifying scores may be found at the ETS Praxis Website (<https://www.ets.org/praxis/nh/requirements>) under the "Tests required for all licensure areas" page.
3. Additional required application materials can be found at <http://www.gradschool.unh.edu/php/pos.php> under programs.

## Requirements

### Credit Hours

The M.Ed. degree requires a minimum of 36 hours of graduate-level credits. The exact number of credit hours will depend on the student's background, competencies, and professional goals, and will be determined by the adviser.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Core Requirements</b>		
EDUC 861	Inclusive Curriculum for Young Children with Special Needs	4
EDUC 941	Diversity and Child Development	4
EDUC 942	Socio-cultural Perspectives on Teaching and Learning	4
EDUC 948	Leadership and Advocacy in Early Childhood Education	4
<b>Internship Requirements</b>		
EDUC 900B	Internship and Seminar in Early Childhood Education	3
EDUC 901B	Internship and Seminar in Early Childhood Education	3
<b>Additional Special Needs Requirements</b>		
EDUC 860	Introduction to Young Children with Special Needs	4
EDUC 862	Curriculum for Young Children with Special Needs: Evaluation and Program Design	4
EDUC 856	Supporting Families of Individuals with Exceptionalities	4
<b>Electives</b>		
Selected in consultation with the program adviser based on interest and certification requirements		2-8
<b>Concluding Experience</b>		
A degree candidate must successfully complete two concluding experiences.		
Select one of the following:		
Comprehensive written and oral examination		
Research thesis		
Graduation Portfolio		
Total Credits		36-42