## SPECIAL EDUCATION (M.ED.)

https://cola.unh.edu/education/program/special-education-med

### Description

The special education program prepares highly qualified educators who possess the knowledge, disposition, and skills necessary to take the lead in establishing effective teaching and learning environments for a diverse population of learners, who are capable of collaborating with classroom teachers as team leaders or consultants, and who utilize these skills within their school communities, and within the profession itself. The program meets current certification requirements in the state of New Hampshire in General Special Education, Learning Disabilities, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and Special Education Administration.

### 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

#### Degree Requirements

**Prerequisites for General Special Education Certification**

1. All candidates are required to complete a course in mathematics teaching methods and a course in reading teaching methods. At UNH, courses that meet the requirements are EDUC 806 Introduction to Reading in the Elementary School and EDUC 907 Foundations of Literacy Instruction. Courses that meet the mathematics requirement are MATH 601 Exploring Mathematics for Teachers I and EDUC 741 Exploring Mathematics with Young Children. Equivalent courses taken at another college or university may be substituted.

2. All students are required to complete EDUC 850 Introduction to Exceptionality, and EDUC 851A Educating Exceptional Learners: Elementary, or EDUC 851B Educating Exceptional Learners: Secondary. Equivalent courses taken at another college or university may be substituted.

3. Credits for prerequisite courses will not count toward those needed for the M.Ed. degree.

**Required Courses for All Students**

- **Core Courses (12 Graduate credits)**

#### Elective Courses (24 Graduate credits)

Students will elect a minimum of 24 graduate credits in consultation with their academic advisor.

**Additional requirements for students seeking certification**

- **EDUC 900C** Internship and Seminar in Special Education
- **EDUC 901C** Internship and Seminar in Special Education
- **EDUC 939** Assessment and Teaching of Children with Learning Difficulties
- **EDUC 940** Assessment and Teaching of Children with Learning Difficulties

1. Students need to take EDUC 856 Supporting Families of Individuals with Exceptionalities only if they didn’t take EDUC 756 Supporting Families of Individuals with Exceptionalities during undergraduate.

2. Students will select elective courses in consultation with their advisor. At most, 4 credit hours of EDUC 899 Master’s Thesis, may count as elective work.

3. Other courses may be included on recommendation from the advisor.

### Core Courses for Certification in Learning Disabilities in Addition to Those Necessary for Certification in General Special Education

- **EDUC 852** Contemporary Issues in Learning Disabilities
- **EDUC 908** Clinical Diagnosis and Remediation of Reading Difficulties and Disabilities
- **EDUC 909** Clinical Diagnosis and Remediation of Reading Difficulties and Disabilities
- **EDUC 910** Reading and Writing Methods in the Middle/Secondary School

**Total Credits**

12

### Core Courses for Certification in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) in Addition to Those Necessary for Certification in General Special Education

- **EDUC #854** Contemporary Issues of Developmental Disabilities
- **EDUC #855** Facilitating Social Understanding and Relationships for Students with Disabilities
- **EDUC 876** Reading for Learners with Special Needs
- **EDUC #952** Inclusive Assessment, Curriculum, Instruction, and Communication Supports
- **EDUC 938** Advanced Seminar in Special Education

**Credit Hours**

4
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 956</td>
<td>Learning to Listen: Developing Positive Behavior Supports for Students with Challenging Behaviors</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 914</td>
<td>Augmentative and Alternative Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Credits** 25

### Core Courses for Special Education Administration in Addition to Those Necessary for Certification in General Special Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 951</td>
<td>Laws and Regulations Affecting the Education of Students with Disabilities</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 956</td>
<td>Learning to Listen: Developing Positive Behavior Supports for Students with Challenging Behaviors</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC #961</td>
<td>Public School Administration</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 962</td>
<td>Educational Finance and Business Management</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 964</td>
<td>Human Resources in Education</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 974</td>
<td>Administrative Internship and Field Project</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Credits** 24

### Concluding Experiences

All students will have the option of one of two concluding experiences:

1. Research project with a defense, or
2. A research thesis (EDUC 899) that meets the requirements of the Graduate School and the Education department (6–10 credits).

Requirements for the thesis are explained in the Graduate School publication entitled Thesis and Dissertation Manual. Which can be found at [www.gradschool.unh.edu](http://www.gradschool.unh.edu). Requirements for the project may be obtained from the adviser or on the program website.

### Grades and 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.