Special Education, MEd

No matter where you're located, you can earn your top-ranked master's degree in as few as three semesters.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MEd Special Education
The MEd program in special education prepares students to further their knowledge of special education for learners in grades K-12 with mild-moderate disabilities. It is designed for individuals who do not need to obtain teacher certification. The program builds on connections between educational design and decision-making and is designed to foster strong professional growth and leadership development.

All courses are offered remotely, and students select one of two modalities:

- ASU Sync offers regularly scheduled evening classes via synchronous learning over Zoom. Instructors and students are not in the same physical space but do meet at the same time, offering a live learning experience with peers and faculty. Students completing the program through ASU Sync must be admitted to the ASU Tempe campus, even though classes do not meet on campus. ASU Sync students need to reside in Arizona throughout the duration of the program.
- ASU Online offers classes via asynchronous instruction. Instructors and students are not in the same physical space and do not meet at the same time, allowing students to complete coursework on their own schedules. Students completing their program through ASU Online must be admitted to the online campus.

This program can be taken in three continuous semesters allowing students to complete the program in one year. Students can also enroll part-time over additional semesters.

Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College faculty actively engage in the educational research community, bringing new and relevant knowledge into the program. Students engage in their own research through applied project coursework, deepening their knowledge and improving their practice through research, critical evaluation and application of education concepts. The program culminates in an applied action research project in which students apply what they’ve learned to address a challenge in special education.
The master's degree program does not lead to teacher certification. Students interested in certification should enroll in the Master of Education program in special education with a concentration in teacher certification.

**ASU Sync**

Students on I-20 visas are not permitted to complete courses via Sync and should speak with an advisor about other options to complete this program.

Students seeking to use GI Bill® benefits for ASU Sync programs should contact the Pat Tillman Veterans Center regarding certain limitations.

GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. More information about education benefits offered by VA is available on the official U.S. government website at [https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill](https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill).

**At a Glance**

- **College/School:** [Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College](#)
- **Location:** [ASU Sync](#) or [Online](#)

**Degree Requirements**

38 credit hours including the required applied project course (SPE 593) - Mild-Moderate Track

**Required Core (8 credit hours)**

TEL 510 Instructional Design, Planning and Assessment (2)
TEL 511 Research and Evaluation in Education (2)
TEL 517 Creating Equitable Learning Environment: Decision Making and Action (3)
TEL 572 Educator Scholar Community III (1)

**Mild/Moderate Track (24 credit hours)**

**Elective (3 credit hours)**

**Culminating Experience (3 credit hours)**

SPE 593 Applied Project (3)
Additional Curriculum Information

Students select elective coursework in consultation with their academic advisor. Students should see the academic unit for a preapproved list of electives. Other elective courses may be substituted with approval of the academic unit.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree in any content area or education-related field from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

Applicants are required to submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. professional resume
4. personal statement
5. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information

An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of current residency. The following are accepted to meet this requirement:

- **TOEFL:** Applicants must have a score of at least 90 on the internet-based test (iBT), with scores on the speaking and writing portions in the high fair -- good range (22 -- 30). ASU’s institutional code is 4007. Only electronic copies of scores are accepted.
- **IELTS:** Applicants must have an overall band score of at least 6.5 with speaking and writing portions needing to be at least 6.5 (6 = Competent User, 7 = Good User). No institutional code is needed.

The personal statement should describe the personal and professional goals that motivate the applicant to apply to the graduate program and explain what led the applicant to this career path and how they will excel in the field of special education. The admission committee pays particular attention to the quality of writing and ideas expressed in the personal statement. The statement should be prepared in an MS Word (.doc), Rich Text (.rtf), Portable Document Format (.pdf), or Text (.txt) file format.
The professional resume should be one to two pages and include relevant personal, professional, educational and community activities. The resume should be prepared in an MS Word (.doc), Rich Text (.rtf), Portable Document Format (.pdf), or Text (.txt) file format.

Attend Online

ASU Online

ASU offers this program in an online format with multiple enrollment sessions throughout the year. Applicants may view the program description and request more information here.

Career Opportunities

Graduates are prepared to start or advance in educational careers working with diverse learners in grades K-12 in roles that do not require certification. Students gain skills in instruction, assessment, educational research and collaborating in teams --- all of which prepare them to successfully work in schools and other community-serving organizations. Roles may include noncertified educators in charter or private schools or educators in non-school settings.

This program also may be suitable for certified teachers who do not have an undergraduate or graduate degree in education.

Contact Information

Division of Teacher Preparation | FAB 200
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