Special Education (Teacher Certification), MEd

No matter where you're located, you can earn your master's degree and prepare to educate learners in grades K-12 and support greater equity in education. Remote coursework paired with in-person internships and residencies prepares you to obtain teacher certification and thrive in the high-demand field of special education.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MEd Special Education (Teacher Certification)
The MEd program in special education with a concentration in teacher certification is for those who already have a bachelor's degree in any field and want to become licensed to teach mild-moderate special education or who want to pursue dual-certification in special education and elementary education. 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.

A series of professional experiences assist students in developing a thorough understanding of teaching and learning as they apply knowledge from their coursework in varied school settings. Individualized guidance through the clinical framework provides students with the support they need to become effective educators.

This program offers two routes leading to Arizona teacher certification:

- In the traditional certification route, students can pursue dual-certification in Mild-Moderate Disabilities Special Education, K-12 and Elementary Education, K-8. Students complete an internship each semester during the first two semesters. Students also complete two 8-week teaching residencies, including one in a special education setting and one in an elementary education setting.

- The alternative certification route provides an alternative pathway to Arizona teacher certification for individuals who are currently employed full-time by a school as a teacher of record. To qualify, individuals must secure a full-time teaching position in an approved content and grade level. This route leads to single certification in Mild-Moderate Disabilities Special Education, K-12. Students in this route are not able to pursue dual certification.

The coursework is similar in both certification routes and culminates in an applied action research project in which students apply what they’ve learned to address a challenge in their classroom.

Graduates from the traditional certification route earn an institutional recommendation from ASU that is recognized by the Arizona Department of Education for Arizona teacher certification in Mild/Moderate Disabilities, K-12 and Elementary Education, K-8.

Graduates from the alternative certification route earn an institutional recommendation from ASU that is recognized by the Arizona Department of Education for Arizona teacher certification in Mild-Moderate Disabilities, K-12.

In order to teach in an Arizona public school, graduates must pass the appropriate Arizona educator subject knowledge exam, as well as the professional knowledge exam offered through the National Evaluation Series or Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessments.

At a Glance

- College/School: Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College
• **Location:** Downtown Phoenix campus, Polytechnic campus, Tempe campus, West campus or Online

### Degree Requirements

44 credit hours including the required applied project course (SPE 593) - Mild-Moderate Alternative Certification Pathway, or  
44 credit hours including the required applied project course (SPE 593) - Mild-Moderate Traditional Certification Pathway, or  
46 credit hours including the required applied project course (SPE 593) - Mild-Moderate Traditional Certification Pathway - Dual

#### Required Core (8)
- 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)

#### Concentration Coursework (24)
- EED 536 Integrated Humanities (SS/ARTS/ELA) Methods and Assessment (3)  
- EED 537 K-8 Mathematics Methods and Assessment (3)  
- SPE 502 Language and Communication Methods and Assessment (2)  
- SPE 513 Instruction and Assessment for Learners with Exceptionalities I (3)  
- SPE 522 Instruction and Assessment for Learners with Exceptionalities II (3)  
- SPE 558 Special Education Foundations: Law, IEPs, Assessment and Ethical Practice (3)  
- TEL 531 Instructional Methods for Language and Literacy (3)  
- TEL 540 Cultivating Networks of Culturally Responsive Relationships Among Families, Communities and Cultures (2)  
- TEL 570 Education Scholar Community I (1)  
- TEL 571 Education Scholar Community II (1)

#### Other Requirement (6 or 8 credit hours)

Elective (3 credit hours)

#### Culminating Experience (3 credit hours)
- SPE 593 Applied Project (3)

### Additional Curriculum Information

Students select one of the mild-moderate pathways, alternative certification or traditional certification.

Alternative pathway students choose six credit hours of apprentice teaching and internship. At least four credits hours must be apprentice teaching. Available other requirement coursework for this pathway are SPE 571, SPE 574, SPE 579 and SPE 576.
Traditional pathway students choose six credit hours of internship and student teaching. Available other requirement coursework for this pathway are SPE 556, SPE 570, SPE 576, EED 582 and SPE 578

- four credit hours must be internship, and
- two credit hours must be student teaching for one certification, elementary or special education

Students seeking dual certification in elementary and special education must complete both an EED and SPE student teaching placement, which extends the teaching certification coursework by two credit hours for a total of eight credit hours of other requirement coursework.

Students should see the academic unit for the current list of possible elective coursework.

If a student plans to switch pathways mid-program, the student must reach out to the academic unit for appropriate advisement.

---

**Admission Requirements**

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the 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 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.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. three letters of recommendation
4. personal statement
5. resume
6. 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 letters of recommendation should be from individuals who can speak to the applicant's potential for success in a graduate program.

The personal statement should describe the applicant's interests and reason for seeking this degree.
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 of Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College are highly sought-out teachers in public, charter and private education institutions. Students gain skills in teaching, conducting research, utilizing technology and collaborating in teams --- all of which prepares them to successfully work with diverse learners in grades K-12.

Professional Licensure

ASU programs that may lead to professional licensure or certification are intended to prepare students for potential licensure or certification in Arizona. Completion of an ASU program may not meet educational requirements for licensure or certification in another state. For more information, students should visit the ASU professional licensure webpage: https://admission.asu.edu/academics/licensure.

Contact Information

Division of Teacher Preparation | ED 118
GradEducation@asu.edu | 480-965-9995