

Special Education Master's Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What degrees are offered?

A: We offer the M.Ed. and MS degrees in Special Education.

Q: How do I apply?

A: Apply online at the graduate school website: <http://www.usu.edu/gradsch/admission/>

Q: What are the admission deadlines?

A: Files must be complete (all items received by the graduate school) by June 15 for fall semester, October 15 for spring semester, and March 15 for summer semester.

Q: Do you accept the Millers Analogies Test (MAT)?

A: We no longer accept the MAT for admission. All students must take the GRE.

Q: Where do I take the GRE:

A: The general test is given year-round. Appointments are scheduled by the testing centers. The GRE is a computer-based test. The cost is \$115.00.

Logan--Utah State University

University Inn 115
0118 Old Main Hill
Logan, Utah 84322
(435) 797-1004

Orem--Prometric Testing Center

315 North State Street
Orem, Utah 84057
(801) 226-5544

Salt Lake City--University of Utah

201 South 1460 East
490 Student Services Building
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112
(801) 581-7310

Q: How long does it take to get my GRE scores back?

A: It takes from 3-6 weeks for scores to be reported. Make sure and plan ahead and take the test well in advance of the admission date that you will be applying for. We cannot review your file if test scores have not been received.

Q: What are the minimum requirements for admission?

A: 3.00 gpa over the last 60 semester hours, GRE scores at the 40th percentile or above, three letters of recommendation, all transcripts, and a letter of intent.

Q: Do you need a Special Education Endorsement for admission?

A: You should already have your SPED endorsement, or be admitted to an endorsement program at the time of admission.

Q: Who should I get the three letters of recommendation from?

A: If you have been in school during the last five years, at least two of the letters must come from persons from whom you have taken academic coursework. The letters must be sent directly to the School of Graduate Studies by the writers. The third letter can come from a colleague, principal, etc. We strongly recommend that even if you have been out of school for five years that you obtain two letters from college professors.

Q: What should my letter of intent include?

A: On the last page of the admission application you are required to write a statement or letter of intent. Your letter must detail your specific reasons for wanting to attend graduate school, and also list and describe experiences and qualifications that you believe prepared you for advanced study. Letters of intent are considered a vital element of the selection process and are carefully reviewed. Therefore, we recommend that you type your letter and attach it to your application. Finally, letters characterized by clear organization, attention to requested information, and mechanical accuracy allow selection committee readers to better evaluate your request for graduate training.

Q: Application Process

A: Once your application has been received by the graduate school and is complete, a file review takes place. Files are rated on GPA, test scores, teaching experience, diversity, supervisory experience, letters of recommendation, and letter of intent. After faculty review files, applicants are divided into three groups: 1) applicants whose files are very strong are admitted for the next semester; 2) applicants whose files were viewed positively by faculty but for whom slots were not available (holding pool), and finally, 3) applicants with weaker files who will not be admitted. If your file is placed in the "holding pool," your application will be considered again at the next file review with more recently received applications and will be given an additional point in the scoring process. This additional point will give your application higher priority, but will not guarantee that you will be admitted.

Q: How long will it take for me to find out if I am admitted to the program?

A: You will be notified by mail of your admission status about 1 month after the admission deadline (March 15, June 15, October 15).

Q: What happens after I am admitted to the program?

A: After you are admitted into the program, you will be invited to a new student orientation. You will learn about all aspects of the program and can ask any questions that you may have. You will be assigned a committee by the department.

Q: Is the program competitive?

A: The program is competitive. The average admittance rate has been 50% over the past 4 admission dates.

Q: How do I get into the Master's + Licensure program?

A: 1) Apply to the Licensure Program. Contact:
On-campus – Darcie Peterson (435) 797-3252
Distance – Nancy Glomb (435) 797-3911
2) Apply to the graduate school for admission to the Special Education Master's program.

Q: How do I get into the Master's + Ed Leadership program?

A: 1) Apply to the Special Education Master's program.
2) After you are accepted into the SPED Master's program, apply to the Administrative/Supervisory License Program. Contact Michelle Wilson (435-797-1473).

Q: What is the cost of 3 credits?

A: A 3 credit course costs approximately \$775.00.

Q: Do you have any graduate student support or scholarships?

A: Unfortunately, we have very few opportunities for support or scholarships. There are a few tuition waivers for on-campus students, but these are very limited. Contact the Financial Aid office (435-797-0173) for information on student loans and other financial aid.

Q: How many classes are offered each semester?

A: Typically, one class is taught at the SLC site, and a different class is taught at the other distance sites (Logan, Brigham City, Ogden/Davis, Tooele, UVSC, Vernal, Roosevelt). Classes in SLC are typically taught on Tuesday or Wednesday and courses at the distance sites are typically taught on Thursday.

Q: Are classes taught in the evening?

A: Core classes are typically taught in the evening from 4:30-7:00 once a week.

Q: Where do I take classes?

A: Classes are offered at sites in Logan, Brigham City, Ogden/Davis, Salt Lake City, Tooele, UVSC, Vernal and Roosevelt.

Q: Can I complete my entire program at a distance site? Do I have to travel to Logan?

A: Most of your program can be completed at the distance site. Unless approved otherwise by your committee, you will need to travel to Logan for your proposal meeting, and your final defense meeting.

Q: How long does it typically take to finish the program?

A: Typically, students take about 2-3 years to finish the program. It can be finished in much less time if you are willing to travel to take classes. Students typically take one class per semester as most are working teachers.

Q: Can I take classes before I am admitted to the program?

A: You can take up to 12 credits before you are admitted. You should know that you are taking these courses at your own risk. You are not guaranteed admission into the program just because you are taking classes.

Q: How many credits can I transfer into the program?

A: Twelve credits from an accredited university. The credits cannot have been used for another degree, and must be relevant to the field of Special Education. Your committee must approve all credits transferred into the program.

Q: I am enrolled in an endorsement program (ATP, Distance Mild/Mod). Can I use some of those credits towards my master's degree?

A: You can apply at least 12 of those credits to your master's degree. There is a possibility that you can apply more credits, depending on when you are admitted to the master's program. Contact Kris Wengreen (435-797-3246) for more information.

Q: How many total credits are in the program?

A: The program is 36 total credits. 15 credits—core courses, 3 credits—research class, 12 credits—electives, and 6 credits—thesis or creative project.

Q: How are courses broadcast?

A: Courses at the Salt Lake City site are live courses. Courses at the other distance sites (Brigham City, Ogden/Davis, Tooele, UVSC, Vernal, Roosevelt) are broadcast over a teleconferencing system from Logan, Utah.

Q: What is the difference between the M.Ed. and the MS degrees?

A: The M.Ed. degree requires that a student do a creative project. The MS requires a thesis. Generally speaking, a thesis is more rigorous.

Q: Are summer classes offered?

A: Summer is a great time to pick up elective credits. The research class and the law class are offered on-campus. The Effective Practices Conference (Logan) and the Law Conference (held in SLC) are also elective options.

Q: Who should I contact for more information?

A: Contact Kris Wengreen at 435-797-3246 or krisw@cc.usu.edu