

## **Specialization - Special Populations**

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### **M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction Description**

The M.Ed. in curriculum and instruction is offered with four emphasis areas: elementary education, special education, literacy education, and secondary education. The latter emphasis can also be completed with one of four specializations: English education, mathematics education, science education (biology, physics, and chemistry), and social studies education. For each program, candidates engage in readings, research, discussions, simulations, reflections, applications, and field experiences/clinical practices intended to help them grow as reflective education professionals.

### **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Results from a national standardized achievement/aptitude test predictive of the ability to complete a graduate program successfully or a teaching license. The standardized tests include but are not limited to: Passing Score on Praxis II Content Field, or Passing Score on Praxis II PLT, or competitive Graduate Record Examination scores (GRE: all sections).

### **Minimum Total Credit Hours: 30**

### **Goals/Mission Statement**

The philosophy of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, as it applies to the preparation of teachers, is reflected by the belief that teachers should be prepared to - Develop and engage in appropriate teaching strategies by studying, interacting, practicing, and reflecting; - Collaborate in identifying and meeting the broad range of goals for which schools are responsible in today's society; - Show by modeling and encouraging students the dispositions of leading, thinking, problem solving, and lifelong learning; - Respect and serve culturally diverse populations and communities; and - Assume responsibility for the quality and effectiveness of their professional lives.

### **Course Requirements**

The M.Ed. degree requires 30 semester hours of course work with emphasis in elementary, secondary, literacy or special education. All candidates for the degree must take Educational Research I (Edrs 605) and Advanced Curriculum Theory and Practice (Edci 601).

### **Emphasis - Special Education Description**

The M.Ed. with an emphasis in special education addresses national board standards with special emphasis placed on lifelong learning, research findings, and innovative curricula.

### **Course Requirements**

The M.Ed. in curriculum and instruction with emphasis in special education requires the following: professional core courses (9 hours, Edrs 605, Edci 601, Edci 503); major area courses (15 hours to include Edsp 628, Edsp 683, Edsp 552, and two additional courses in special education); and 6 hours of electives (electives must be approved by the adviser). Total hours in the master's program are 30.

### **Other Academic Requirements**

M.Ed. candidates must successfully complete a professional portfolio and have a minimum of 45 hours of adviser-approved field experiences. M.Ed. candidates must also pass a comprehensive exam at the end of their program.

### **Specialization - Special Populations Description**

The student is required to complete 9 hours of professional core courses; 18 hours of specialized courses in special education content area courses; and 3 hours of the Capstone Research Project.

