The online Master of Education degree in Special Education is designed to develop and improve knowledge of and performance in core professional competencies related to the field of special education. In Pennsylvania, an Instructional Certificate in Special Education indicates that an individual is qualified to teach children in grades P-8 who have disabilities (with the exceptions of hearing, visual, and speech/language impairments), i.e., learning disabilities, mental retardation, emotional/behavioral disorders, autism, traumatic brain injury, orthopedic impairment, and other health impairments.

Special Education Program Options

There are two options available for students wishing to pursue Master of Education Degrees in Special Education.

OPTION 1 (Seeking Certification) - Individuals who hold undergraduate certification in ELED, ECED, Middle Level or Reading from an accredited institution may enroll in the M.Ed. in Special Education with PK-8 SPED certification. Individuals holding 7-12 content certification may enroll in the M.Ed. in Special Education with 7-12 SPED certification.

The courses are designed to meet all Pennsylvania Department of Education Special Education guidelines and Council for Exception Children standards. The program is 36 credits and requires a one-week residency on campus during the first summer of the program.

OPTION 2 (Currently Certified in SPED) - The Master of Education degree program for students who are currently certified in Special Education is designed to develop and improve knowledge of and performance in core professional competencies related to the field of special education. Additionally, students develop expertise in a chosen area of specialization, (autism, or behavior management). The program is 30 credits and requires a one-week residency on campus during the first summer of your program.

Admission Requirements:

All admission materials should be sent to School of Graduate Studies, 310 Scotland Road, Butterfield Hall, Edinboro, PA 16444 or via email gradstudies@edinboro.edu or fax 814-732-2611.

1. Complete the online graduate application (gradschool.edinboro.edu).
3. An official transcript verifying an earned baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution (not needed if degree was earned at Edinboro).
4. Undergraduate QPA of a 2.80 is required for admission. For students with a QPA below 2.80, score from the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) or the aptitude test of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), are required.
5. Copy of valid teacher certificate in ECED, ELED or Reading (not needed for PA certified teachers).

Application Deadline: This program has rolling admissions. There is no guarantee that the School of Graduate Studies can process an application for admission less than six weeks prior to the semester start date to which enrollment is sought.

Note: Certification procedures in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania require that the candidates must pass the Special Education Exam required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education before certification will be granted. Candidates seeking certification in another state shall follow the corresponding procedures required by the given state. Only international students who hold immigrant status, and have submitted a form of intent to become a citizen, are eligible to apply for PDE teacher certification.
Curriculum OPTION 1 - M. Ed. Special Education - Seeking Certification

Required Courses .......................................................... 24 sem. hrs.
SPED 710 Seminar in Exceptionalities ........................... 3 credits
SPED 720 Advanced Assessment ................................. 3 credits
SPED 725 Seminar in Mild to Moderate Disabilities ....... 3 credits
SPED 740 Issues Effecting Individuals with Severe Disabilities ...... 3 credits
SPED 755 Collaboration, Partnerships, and IEP Development ......... 3 credits
SPED 695 Graduate Field Experience in Special Education ......... 3 credits
EDUC 788 Research in Education .............................. 3 credits
APSY 789 Research in Education II ............................. 3 credits

PK-8 Certification Required Courses ............................ 12 sem. hrs.
SPED 715 Creating Inclusive Classrooms ...................... 3 credits
SPED 735 Explicit Instructional Strategies in Special Education .... 3 credits
SPED 745 Language and Literacy-based Instruction in Special Education ...... 3 credits
SPED 750 Behavior Disorders and Positive Behavior Supports .... 3 credits

7-12 Certification Required Courses ............................ 12 sem. hrs.
SPED 628 Classroom and School-wide Behavior Management Strategies for Inclusive Settings .... 3 credits
SPED 712 Content Enhancement Literacy Skills to Promote Secondary Inclusion .... 3 credits
SPED 714 Mathematics and Content Area Study Skills to Promote Secondary Inclusion .... 3 credits
SPED 610 Secondary Transition ................................. 3 credits

Curriculum OPTION 2 - M. Ed. in Special Education
(Currently certified in Special Education)

18 Credit Core:
SPED 610 Secondary Transition ................................. 3 credits
SPED 628 Classroom and School-wide Behavior Management Strategies for Inclusive Settings .... 3 credits
SPED 760 Early Intervention and Working with Families ......... 3 credits
SPED 765 Response to Intervention, Progress Monitoring and Data Management .... 3 credits
EDUC 788 Research in Education .............................. 3 credits
APSY 789 Research in Education II ............................. 3 credits

12 Credit Specializations (chose one area to specialize):

Autism (08680)
SPED770 Autism Spectrum Disorders ........................... 3 credits
SPED785 Applied Behavior Analysis ........................... 3 credits
SPED 795 Graduate Internship in Special Education ......... 3 credits
SHLD708 Autism Spectrum Disorders and Augmentative and Alternative Communication .... 3 credits

Behavior Management (08681)
(SPED 628, SPED 765, and APSY 789 taken in core)
SPED 695 Graduate Field Experience in Special Education .... 3 credits
SPED 750 Behavior Disorders and Positive Behavior Supports .... 3 credits
SPED 785 Applied Behavior Analysis ........................... 3 credits
APSY 796 Crisis Management and Violence Prevention in Schools .... 3 credits

Degree Requirements: Students in these programs must comply with the course requirements for the master of education degree. In addition, students must satisfactorily complete a non-credit master's project using Applied Behavior. This project is typically developed and completed during the two research courses.

Note: Students who enter the Special Education M.Ed. program seeking teacher certification in special education must also meet the requirements for such certification, (including exams) before the M.Ed. will be conferred.

For More Information: If you have questions about the application process, please contact Edinboro University's School of Graduate Studies at gradstudies@edinboro.edu or at (814)732-2856 or toll-free (888) 845-2890. For questions specific to the master's degree in Special Education program, please contact Dr. Erik Bentsen at (814) 732-1358 (ebentsen@edinboro.edu).
Office for Students with Disabilities: For information or assistance regarding services, activities and facilities that are accessible to and usable by persons with a disability, contact Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD), at (814) 732-2462 t/tty. For additional information, visit the OSD web page.

Financial Aid Considerations: An academic year consists of Fall, Spring, and Summer. Graduate students taking graduate level courses may receive up to $20,500 in the Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan Program. Most students will use their Stafford loans during the 9 month period (Fall and Spring). Students will want to be mindful of their financial aid to allow for funding for 12 months if planning on enrolling during the Summer term. Students will have an option to apply for Graduate Plus loan or private loans if other funding has been exhausted. For more specific information, please contact the Financial Aid Office at (814) 735-3500 or finaid@edinboro.edu

Employer Reimbursement: Non-traditional students who are working and taking classes on a part-time basis may have employer-paid education benefits. The purpose of the employer tuition reimbursement agreement is to allow employees who receive reimbursement to defer payment of their tuition and fees until after grades are available at the end of the semester.

Veterans' Education Benefits Information and printable forms regarding Veterans' Education Benefits and the Montgomery GI Bill are available at the Department of Veterans Affairs website, http://www.gibill.va.gov/. After the Department of Veterans Affairs approves a student's eligibility, and after the school certifies the student's enrollment, benefits are paid directly to the student after the end of each month.

Edinboro University of Pennsylvania is an equal opportunity education institution and employer and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation and disability in its activities, programs or employment practices as required by Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, Section 504, ADEA and the ADA.

For information regarding civil rights or grievance procedures and for inquiries concerning the application of Title IX and its implementing regulation, contact Ms. Valerie O. Hayes, J. D. Director of Social Equity, / University Title IX Coordinator, 207 Reeder Hall, 219 Meadville Street, Edinboro, PA 16444 (814-732-2167). Additionally, inquiries concerning Title IX and its implementing regulation can be made to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights.

For information or assistance regarding services, activities and facilities that are accessible to and used by persons with a disability, contact Office for Students with Disabilities at the Crawford Center (814-732-2462 V/TTY).