

Change lives for students with ASD.

The online master's in autism spectrum disorder.

The [online Master of Science in Education \(M.S.E.\) in special education with an emphasis in autism spectrum disorder \(ASD\)](#) prepares educators, families and individual advocates to help produce effective educational interventions and treatments for students with ASD. This program provides training in identifying and leveraging evidence-based practices so that graduates may empower learners with ASD by focusing on such students' strengths and interests, and by designing personalized instruction that teaches them to improve their communication and behavioral skills and make the most of their personal strengths.

Program Benefits

- Learn from renowned faculty in a department that has set the standard in the practice of special education for over 50 years
- Complete your coursework anytime, anywhere, through our [innovative online format](#)
- Practice successful intervention strategies through [robust interactive scenarios](#)
- Three available elective tracks: Behavior, Leadership and Secondary/Transition
- No GRE required for admission
- Accredited under NCATE standards through CAEP

Program Structure

- 13 courses
- 36 credit hours
- 8 weeks per course
- Complete in as few as 2 years

Admissions Requirements

- Completed [online application form](#)
- Professional **resume or CV**
- Completed **bachelor's degree** from accredited college or university
- **Official transcripts** from all colleges or universities attended
- [Letter of introduction](#) stating your area of interest and licensure status
- Name, email and position for **three professional references**
- **Application fee:** \$65 for U.S. residents, \$85 for international applicants
- **IELTS or TOEFL scores** (for non-native English-speaking applicants)

The Curriculum

Core Courses:

SPED 760:

Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorder

SPED 785:

Application of Assessment Information for Exceptional Children and Youth

SPED 790:

Methods for Learners With Higher-Functioning Autism Spectrum Disorder

SPED 800:

Teaching Language and Communication Skills to Learners With Autism and Developmental Disabilities

SPED 860:

Education of Children and Youth With Disabilities: Autism Spectrum Disorder

SPED 854:

Family and Interprofessional Collaboration in Special Education

EPSY 715:

Understanding Research in Education

SPED 871:

Advanced Practicum With Exceptional Children Needing an Autism Spectrum Curriculum

SPED 898:

Master's Project

Track Electives:

Behavior Track:

SPED 743:

Functional Behavior Assessment, Positive Behavior Support and Classroom Management

SPED 843:

Advanced Methods and Assessment: Strategies for Students With Social and Emotional Needs

Additional elective course

Leadership Track:

SPED 756:

Special Education Leadership

SPED 757:

History, Context and Critique of Special Education

SPED 758:

Appropriate Education and Least Restrictive Environment

Secondary/Transition Track:

SPED 856:

Transition Education and Services From Childhood to Adulthood

SPED 858:

Assessment for Transition Planning

What You'll Learn

Students in this online master's program will develop a full understanding of autism spectrum disorder as well as the most effective methods for educating children and youth with ASD. The online master's program includes an intensive field-based practicum as well as a culminating project that demonstrates mastery of program competencies. Upon graduating, students will have fully developed their ability to select, implement, and evaluate evidence-based interventions and support strategies for learners with ASD, and they will be expected to demonstrate best methods for applying behavior interventions and teaching social interaction and communications skills.

Career Outcomes

Graduates of the online master's in autism spectrum disorder program are prepared to seek many different careers serving students with ASD—for example, they may serve as special educators, autism specialists, or behavior specialists at the local or state level. Outside of education, they may choose to utilize their knowledge by working with Applied Behavior Analysis clinics or pursue work as a therapist in specialty areas, which may include occupational therapists, speech language pathologists or therapists, or art therapists.