Accomplished professors, rigorous curriculum and a supportive environment equates to an exceptional experience at Texas State University’s [Special Education] program. You will be highly prepared and competitive for any future endeavor in special education.

– Martin Mendoza, M.Ed. in Special Education, BD/PBS, current Ph.D. student at Texas A&M University

Students learn evidence-based strategies and theories to improve the social and learning outcomes for young people with disabilities.

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Department Mission

The mission of the special education program is to prepare educators and specialists who apply current, evidence-based practices in special education for the purpose of preparing individuals with disabilities to live independent, responsible and personally satisfying lives in a diverse, global society.

Graduates engage in practitioner inquiry and research, serve as leaders in special education policy and classroom practice, and apply their knowledge and skills to positively influence the inclusion of, and support for, persons who require the best professional practices of special education.
Why choose Texas State?
The program is respected for comprehensive, rigorous instruction, with both entry-level and advanced studies programs available. Faculty in special education, widely known for research excellence and leadership in their fields, value student mentoring and provide students with opportunities to work together on clinical and field-based research.

Students have published work in professional journals and presented at professional conferences. Graduates have been successful in careers as special educators and in receiving doctoral scholarships.

Course Work
The master of education (M.Ed.) degree offers three areas of concentration:

- autism/applied behavior analysis (Au/ABA) – for teachers and therapists wishing to work with students with autism in school or clinical settings
- behavioral disorders/positive behavior supports (BD/PBS) – for teachers and specialists pursuing careers as behavior specialists or PBS specialists in schools, alternative settings or residential settings
- learning disabilities/inclusion (LD/I) – for educators seeking to instruct students with learning disabilities in school settings and/or interested in becoming academic intervention experts

The career alternatives in special education (CASE) program allows post-baccalaureate students to earn the teacher certification and the M.Ed. simultaneously. Students can also complete a paid internship while employed as a teacher in lieu of student teaching.

Faculty
Ten full-time faculty members have established outstanding research programs in treatment of challenging behavior and learning difficulties in children and youth with autism, emotional/behavioral disorders and learning disabilities. Research is conducted in schools, the university autism clinic (CARES) and juvenile justice settings. Special education faculty provide technical assistance and policy consultation for state and national government and advocacy agencies. Faculty members’ research and policy commentaries have been published in top-tier journals, and faculty are frequently invited speakers at national and international professional meetings.

Career Options
Special education graduates pursue careers as teachers, behavior and learning specialists, and applied behavior analysts. Graduates work in public and charter school programs, clinic settings and alternative education settings, including residential programs. Many graduates choose to pursue doctoral studies and have been successful in receiving prestigious doctoral scholarships.

Important Deadlines*
Admissions
Priority Fall: February 1
Fall: June 15
Spring: October 15
Summer: April 15
Summer midterm: June 1
Applications will continue to be considered on a space-available basis after the deadline.

Funding: Scholarships, Fellowships and Assistantships
Applications must be complete by the priority deadline to be considered for certain types of funding.

How to Apply
For information regarding admission requirements and submission instructions, please visit: gradcollege.txstate.edu/apply

*International applicants can view specific deadlines and requirements at: gradcollege.txstate.edu/international

For the most up-to-date information on deadlines, admission requirements and funding, visit: gradcollege.txstate.edu/programs/special-ed

Brochure Information Current as of August 2018