Those choosing to complete a master’s degree in special education include students seeking special education teacher certification at the post-baccalaureate level, students who are already certified teachers and want to add special education certification, and students seeking a program of advanced studies in special education.

Students have three options: the Career Alternatives in Special Education (CASE) program, a master of education in special education with one of three concentrations, and a master of education in special education with an optional minor.
Master’s Degree Options in Special Education

Career Alternatives in Special Education (CASE) is for individuals who have a bachelor’s degree but no current teacher certification and wish to obtain special education certification in conjunction with the master’s degree. CASE students also may choose to obtain special education teacher certification without a master of education degree. This program prepares teachers to educate students ages 3 to 21 years with any type of disability. For more information go to www.education.txstate.edu/ci/case.

The master of education with a specialized concentration is for individuals who already have teacher certification, or are not interested in obtaining teacher certification. Students may choose one of three areas:

1. Autism/Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) – provides advanced course work in autism and ABA, including the content required for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst examination and subsequent certification. This concentration is appropriate for teachers and therapists who work with students with autism as well as those seeking to become autism specialists or consultants.

2. Behavioral Disorders/Positive Behavioral Supports (PBS) – provides advanced course work in behavioral disorders and PBS, specifically schoolwide PBS. This concentration is intended for school district behavior specialists, PBS coaches and specialists, and others who provide direct or consultative services in behavioral disorders and/or positive behavioral supports.

3. Learning Disabilities/Inclusion – provides advanced course work in learning disabilities for general and special education inclusion teachers. It is also appropriate for school district inclusion specialists or others who provide direct or consultative services in inclusion and supports for students with disabilities in general education settings.

The master of education with an optional minor is for individuals who wish to obtain additional teacher certification and/or a master’s degree in special education and are not interested in the above concentrations. Optional minors might include reading, elementary education, secondary education or any other approved graduate minor.

Course Work

All three of these programs lead to a master of education with a major in special education, unless students are seeking only certification.

CASE, the master’s program with an optional minor, consists of 24 semester hours in special education and a 12-semester-hour minor. The behavioral disorders and learning disabilities concentrations consist of 30 hours of special education courses and six hours in a cognate. The autism concentration consists of 24 semester hours in special education and 12 semester hours in a cognate. A comprehensive exam rather than a thesis is required for all programs. Certain courses are offered at the Round Rock Campus.

Admission Policy

In addition to the general requirements for admission to the Texas State Graduate College, the special education program requires a minimum GPA of 2.75 on the last 60 hours of undergraduate course work leading to a bachelor’s degree.