

MASTER OF EDUCATION IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Master of Education in Special Education is designed to prepare professional educators with advanced competencies related to the field of special education. This is a 36-hour degree plan that originates in the School of Teaching and Learning. The candidate must successfully complete a departmental comprehensive examination. Candidates must be enrolled in coursework during the semester they take the comprehensive examination. The Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Special Education is accredited by CAEP, CEC, and SBEC.

The **M.Ed. in Special Education** course of study advances their students' knowledge and expertise in innovative research and teaching practices for learners with disabilities. This online program seeks to examine and refine disability policies informed by current research, implement and evaluate research-based practices, seek solutions to systemic injustice, and explore diverse cultural perspectives on disability. Students enrolled in the online M. Ed. Special Education program maximize their professional competence, career advancement, leadership roles, advocacy, and systems' change competencies. This online program offers the convenience of studying at one's own pace and in comfortable spaces.

The **M.Ed. in Special Education with Transition Services Certificate** course of study is aligned with the Council for Exceptional Children's Advanced Special Education Transition Specialist standards and is designed to meet the growing need for a specialized skilled set in transition services for special education teachers and professionals working in the field of special education transition services. Students enrolled in the online M.Ed. in Special Education with Transition Certificate program maximize their professional competence, career advancement, leadership roles, and advocacy and systems' change competencies in the field of transition. Courses are taught online; eleven (11) courses are online asynchronous and one (1) course is hybrid.

The **M.Ed. in Special Education with Educational Diagnostician Certification** course of study provides the academic foundations necessary for the Standard Educational Diagnostician Certification. This program provides students with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions needed to apply research, methods, and recommended practices for the effective assessment and instruction of learners with special needs in diverse school and community settings. This is a hybrid program with seven (7) asynchronous online courses and five (5) hybrid courses.

The **M.Ed. in Special Education with Educational Diagnostician Certification and Bilingual Diagnostician Certificate** course of study provides the academic foundations necessary for the Standard Educational Diagnostician Certification. This program provides students who have Spanish and English language proficiency the ability to evaluate Emergent Bilinguals (EB) as well as students who are monolingual English speakers. Graduate students learn to establish language dominance and proficiency in Spanish and English, conduct assessments, interpret results, and make educational recommendations for learners in school settings. This is a hybrid program with seven (7) asynchronous online courses and five (5) hybrid courses.

To be eligible to receive the Standard Educational Diagnostician Certification, a candidate must:

- Successfully complete an educational diagnostician preparation program that meets the requirements of TAC §239.82 (complete all the requirements on the SHSU Course Plan) and TAC §239.83.
- Successfully complete the examination based on the standards identified in TAC §239.83.
- Hold, at a minimum, a master's degree from an accredited institution of higher education that at the time was accredited or otherwise approved by an accrediting organization recognized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating board.
- Hold a valid classroom teaching certificate.
- Have three creditable years of teaching experience as a classroom teacher (2 years of service may be earned while enrolled in the program)

Additional information: Reference the Program Landing Page (<https://www.shsu.edu/programs/graduate/special-education/>) for additional information, such as cost, delivery format, contact information, or to schedule a visit.

To be considered for regular admittance to the Graduate School and the M.Ed. in Special Education program, applicants must submit the following to the Office of Graduate Admissions:

Spring 2025

1. Graduate application (<http://www.shsu.edu/admissions/apply-texas.html>)
2. Application fee (<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/graduate-studies/application-fee.html>)
3. Official transcripts from all degrees earned
4. Minimum undergraduate GPA of a 3.0, either overall or in the last 60 credit hours
5. Two recommendation forms
6. **Transition Services:** Curriculum vitae or resume
7. **Educational Diagnostician:** Interview video
8. **Educational Diagnostician:** Copy of applicant's Teaching Certificate

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9. **Educational Diagnostician:** Pay the \$35 Texas Education Accountability System for Educator Preparation Programs Fee (https://secure.touchnet.com/C21329_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=1601) (paid to the TEA as required by TAC 229.9.7)
10. **Educational Diagnostician:** Teacher Service Record with at least 2 years of creditable service as a teacher of record

Fall 2024

1. Graduate application (<http://www.shsu.edu/admissions/apply-texas.html>)
2. Application fee (<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/graduate-studies/application-fee.html>)
3. Official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended, both undergraduate and graduate, that reflect a 2.75 GPA overall or in the last 60 hours
4. Contact information for two references
5. Writing sample (https://www.shsu.edu/academics/school-of-teaching-and-learning/documents/Writing_Sample_Instructions.pdf) or Letter of Interest
6. Official GRE (<http://www.ets.org/gre/>) scores, if GPA in last 60 hours is below a 2.75 (Minimum scores required are listed in the table below.)
7. **Transition Services:** Curriculum vitae or resume
8. **Educational Diagnostician:** Interview video
9. **Educational Diagnostician:** Copy of applicant's Teaching Certificate
10. **Educational Diagnostician:** Pay the \$35 Texas Education Accountability System for Educator Preparation Programs Fee (https://secure.touchnet.com/C21329_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=1601) (paid to the TEA as required by TAC 229.9.7)
11. **Educational Diagnostician:** Teacher Service Record with at least 2 years of creditable service as a teacher of record

GRE revised General Test Score Bands to be used for Admission to an Educator Preparation Program under the 10% Exception Rule in 19 TAC §227.10(a)(3)(B):

Self-reported Undergraduate GPA	GRE Verbal Reasoning ¹	GRE Quantitative Reasoning ¹	GRE Analytical Writing ²
B-(2.7 GPA)	143-157	140-155	3.0-4.5

¹ GRE Verbal and Quantitative scores are reported on a 130 to 170 scale.

² GRE Analytical Writing scores are reported on a 0 to 6 scale in half-point increments.

Under these circumstances, the GRE may not be waived.

Master of Education in Special Education

Code	Title	Hours
Master of Education in Special Education		
Specified Courses		
BESL 5302	Social and Cultural Language Influences On Learning	3
BESL 5304	Second Language Acquisition and Development	3
CIED 5370	Foundations of Education Research	3
ECHE 5349	Language and Literacy Development in the Young Child	3
READ 5335	Cognition & Emergent Literacy	3
SPED 5301	Education of Individuals with Disabilities	3
SPED 5303	Study of Cognitive and Low Incidence Disabilities	3
SPED 5304	Teaching Methods for Learners with Mild to Moderate Disab	3
SPED 6304	In-Home Training and Family Issues	3
SPED 6311	Seminar in Special Education	3
SPED 6313	Seminar in Language and Learning Disabilities	3
SPED 6321	Outcomes in Behavioral Interventions	3
Total Hours		36

Note: Courses are taught online (12 asynchronous online courses).

Master of Education in Special Education with Transition Services Certificate

Code	Title	Hours
Master of Education in Special Education (Transition Services Certificate)		
Specified Courses		

SPED 5301	Education of Individuals with Disabilities	3
SPED 5303	Study of Cognitive and Low Incidence Disabilities	3
SPED 5304	Teaching Methods for Learners with Mild to Moderate Disab	3
SPED 5306	Transition Services for Individuals with Disabilities	3
SPED 5307	Transition Assessment and Instruction	3
COUN 5370 or SPED 5308	Career Counseling Across Lifespan Career Development & Employment for Youth with Disabilities	3
SPED 5309	Leadership in Transition Services	3
SPED 6304	In-Home Training and Family Issues	3
SPED 6308	Practicum 1	3
SPED 6311	Seminar in Special Education	3
SPED 6313	Seminar in Language and Learning Disabilities	3
SPED 6321	Outcomes in Behavioral Interventions	3
Total Hours		36

Note: Courses are taught online (11 asynchronous online courses, 1 hybrid course)

Master of Education in Special Education with Educational Diagnostician Certification

Code	Title	Hours
Master of Education in Special Education (Educational Diagnostician Certification)		
Specified Courses		
SPED 5301	Education of Individuals with Disabilities	3
SPED 5302	Assessment in Special Education	3
SPED 5303	Study of Cognitive and Low Incidence Disabilities	3
SPED 5304	Teaching Methods for Learners with Mild to Moderate Disab	3
SPED 5305	Individual Assessment of Cognitive Functioning	3
SPED 6304	In-Home Training and Family Issues	3
SPED 6308	Practicum 1	3
SPED 6310	Assessment of Young Children and Low Incidence Populations	3
SPED 6311	Seminar in Special Education	3
SPED 6312	Practicum 2	3
SPED 6313	Seminar in Language and Learning Disabilities	3
SPED 6321	Outcomes in Behavioral Interventions	3
Total Hours		36

Note: Courses are taught online (7 asynchronous online courses, 5 hybrid courses)

Master of Education in Special Education with Educational Diagnostician Certification and Bilingual Diagnostician Certificate

Code	Title	Hours
Master of Education in Special Education with Educational Diagnostician Certification and Bilingual Diagnostician Certificate		
BESL 5314	Second Language Acquisition for Bilingual Diagnosticians	3
SPED 5301	Education of Individuals with Disabilities	3
SPED 5303	Study of Cognitive and Low Incidence Disabilities	3
SPED 5304	Teaching Methods for Learners with Mild to Moderate Disab	3
SPED 6304	In-Home Training and Family Issues	3
SPED 6308	Practicum 1	3
SPED 6321	Outcomes in Behavioral Interventions	3
SPED 6310	Assessment of Young Children and Low Incidence Populations	3
SPED 6311	Seminar in Special Education	3
SPED 6312	Practicum 2	3
SPED 6319	Bilingual Cognitive Assessment	3

Total Hours**36**

Note: Courses are taught online (7 asynchronous online courses, 5 hybrid courses)

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) marketable skills initiative is part of the state's **60x30TX plan** and was designed to help students articulate their skills to employers. Marketable skills are those skills valued by employers and/or graduate programs that can be applied in a variety of work or education settings and may include interpersonal, cognitive, and applied skill areas.

The **M.Ed. in Special Education (Online)** is designed to provide graduates with the following marketable skills:

- Leadership opportunities in public-private education, non-profit agencies, and foundations.
- Knowledge and expertise in innovative research and teaching practices for learners with disabilities.

The **M.Ed. in Special Education with Transition Services Certificate** is designed to provide graduates with the following marketable skills:

- Special Education Transition Services Certificate composed of courses aligned with the Council for Exceptional Children's Advanced Special Education Transition Specialist standards.
- Knowledge, skills, and dispositions to provide transition assessment and services in order to prepare students with disabilities for living, learning, and working in their communities.

The **M.Ed. in Special Education with Educational Diagnostician Certification** is designed to provide graduates with the following marketable skills:

- Educational Diagnostician Certification.
- Knowledge and skills necessary to improve the performance of a diverse student population.
- Currency in best practices and research as related to both assessment and student learning.
- Skills necessary to provide educational assessment and evaluation, as required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or other applicable law, for students from birth through adulthood.

The **M.Ed. in Special Education with Educational Diagnostician Certification and Bilingual Diagnostician Certificate** is designed to provide graduates with the following marketable skills:

- Educational Diagnostician Certification.
- Graduate Certificate in Bilingual (Spanish) Educational Diagnostician.
- Knowledge and skills necessary to improve the performance of a diverse student population.
- Currency in best practices and research as related to both assessment and student learning.
- Skills necessary to provide educational assessment and evaluation, as required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or other applicable law, for students from birth through adulthood.