SPECIAL EDUCATION, ED.S.

Special education graduate programs are designed to help bring improvements to the educational services offered to exceptional children. Courses of study leading to the Educational Specialist (EdS) degree and Class AA professional educator certification in the education of exceptional children are listed below:

Traditional Class AA programs are available in

- collaborative education
- early childhood special education
- gifted and talented

Admissions

In addition to the minimum Graduate School admission requirements, to be considered for regular admission an application must:

- have earned a master's degree with appropriate prerequisite master's level certification
- submit three recommendations (applicants to a College of Education program that leads to professional certification must submit references from current and former professors and/or supervisory personnel knowledgeable of the applicant's academic and professional capabilities.)

Applicants must also meet the fingerprinting requirement for background clearance.

Admission to the Graduate School is not equivalent to "unconditional admission" to a state-approved educator preparation program.

See the Admission Criteria section of this catalog for more information.

Curricular Requirements

Early Childhood Special Education Concentration

This course listing applies to candidates having appropriate prior certification who begin this program June 13, 2024, and thereafter. Candidates earning graduate credit prior to this date may elect to utilize this program. Candidates must present a GPA of at least 3.25 on all courses in the program, with no grade below a C. Credits used for the previous Class A support certificate may not be used for this program.

Candidates admitted to the Class AA program without prior Class A certification in early childhood special education must take the following courses in addition to the coursework below: SPE 576 (or its equivalent), SPE 571, SPE 578, SPE 594, and SPE 579. Up to three semester hours of the prerequisite work may be used to meet the elective requirements in this program.

Code and Title		Hours
Core Courses		
BER 540	Statistical Methods In Educ (or another advisor-approved, graduate-level BER course)	3
SPE 606	Topical Seminar In Spe	3
SPE 613	Consult Proc Spe Progs	3
SPE 617	SPE Leadership	3
	Credit Hours Subtotal:	12
Concentration Courses		
SPE 616	Adv. Professional Development	3
SPE 621	Issues in Education: Early	3
SPE 622	Adv. Curr. Workshop:Early	3
	Credit Hours Subtotal:	9
Other Coursework		
Choose 3 hours from the approved courses listed below:		3
BEF 503	History Of Amer Educn	
BEF 507	Sociology Of Education	
BEF 510	Phil Hist Socl Founds Ed	
BEF 534	Multicultural Education	
BEF 575	Found Educn Through Film	
BEF 585	Language Politics & Education	
BEF 607	Readings In Soc Of Ed	
BEF 650	Theories of Race and Education	
BEF 667	Multicult Soc Ed Leadershp	
BEF 681	Ethics And Education	
BCE 611	Multicult. Approach Counseling	
BCE 621	Adv Multicultural Counseling	
BER course (graduate-level, advisor approved)		3
BER course (graduate-level, advisor approved)		3
Adviser Approved Elective		3
	Credit Hours Subtotal:	12
SPE 500 is required if a special education survey course was not part of the undergraduate program or another graduate program.		
Total Hours		**33**

Collaborative Special Education Concentration

This course listing applies to candidates having appropriate prior certification who begin this program June 13, 2024, and thereafter. Candidates earning graduate credit prior to this date may elect to utilize this program. Candidates must present a GPA of at least 3.25 on all courses in the program, with no grade below a C. Credits used for the previous Class A support certificate may not be used for this program.

Candidates admitted to the Class AA program without prior Class A certification in collaborative or an approved area of special education must take the following courses in addition to the coursework below: SPE 590, SPE 591 or SPE 592, SPE 594, SPE 501 (or the equivalent), and SPE 596. Up to three semester hours of the prerequisite work may be used to meet the elective requirements in this program.

Code and Title		Hours
Core Courses		
BER 540	Statistical Methods In Educ (or another advisor-approved, graduate-level BER course)	3
SPE 606	Topical Seminar In Spe	3
SPE 613	Consult Proc Spe Progs	3
SPE 617	SPE Leadership	3
	Credit Hours Subtotal:	12
Concentration Courses		
SPE 616	Adv. Professional Development	3
SPE 623	Issues in Collab	3
SPE 624	Adv. Curr. Workshop: Collab.	3
	Credit Hours Subtotal:	9
Other Coursework		

Select 3 hours from the approved courses below:		3
BEF 503	History Of Amer Educn	
BEF 507	Sociology Of Education	
BEF 510	Phil Hist Socl Founds Ed	
BEF 534	Multicultural Education	
BEF 575	Found Educn Through Film	
BEF 585	Language Politics & Education	
BEF 607	Readings In Soc Of Ed	
BEF 650	Theories of Race and Education	
BEF 667	Multicult Soc Ed Leadershp	
BEF 681	Ethics And Education	
BCE 611	Multicult. Approach Counseling	
BCE 621	Adv Multicultural Counseling	
BER course (graduate-level, advisor approved)		3
BER course (graduate-level, advisor approved)		3
Advisor Approved Elective		3
	Credit Hours Subtotal:	12
SPE 500 is required if a special education survey course was not part of the undergraduate program or another graduate program.		
Total Hours		**33**

Gifted Education Concentration

This course listing applies to candidates having appropriate prior certification who begin this program June 13, 2024, and thereafter. Candidates earning graduate credit prior to this date may elect to utilize this program. Candidates must present a GPA of at least 3.25 on all courses in the program, with no grade below a C. Credits used for the previous Class A support certificate may not be used for this program.

Candidates admitted to the Class AA program without prior Class A certification in Gifted must take the following courses in addition to the coursework below: SPE 581, SPE 582, SPE 583, SPE 501 (or its equivalent), and SPE 589. Up to three semester hours of the prerequisite work may be used to meet the elective requirements in this program.

Program Courses		**Hours**
Core Courses		
BER 540	Statistical Methods In Educ (or another advisor-approved, graduate-level BER course)	3
SPE 606	Topical Seminar In Spe	3
SPE 613	Consult Proc Spe Progs	3
SPE 617	SPE Leadership	3
	Credit Hours Subtotal:	12
Concentration Courses		
SPE 612	Readg Research In Spe	6
SPE 681	Issues In Gifted Educ	3
SPE 682	Adv Curr Workshp Gift Educatio	6
	Credit Hours Subtotal:	15
Other Coursework		
Select 3 hours from the approved courses below:		3
BEF 503	History Of Amer Educn	
BEF 507	Sociology Of Education	
BEF 510	Phil Hist Socl Founds Ed	
BEF 585	Language Politics & Education	
BEF 534	Multicultural Education	
BEF 575	Found Educn Through Film	
BEF 607	Readings In Soc Of Ed	
BEF 650	Theories of Race and Education	
BEF 667	Multicult Soc Ed Leadershp	
BEF 681	Ethics And Education	
BCE 611	Multicult. Approach Counseling	
BCE 621	Adv Multicultural Counseling	
BER course (graduate-level, advisor approved)		3
SPE 500 is required if a special education survey course was not part of the undergraduate program or another graduate program.		
Total Hours		**33**

Transfer Credit

Graduate School information on Transfer Credit.

Comprehensive Exam

Students complete a comprehensive examination during their last semester of coursework. Dates for comprehensive examinations are announced at the beginning of each semester. Student must be registered for at least one hour in order to take the comprehensive per Graduate School policy. The department will provide the comprehensive examination question/assignment in view of each student's course of study. Comprehensive examination responses are subject to evaluation for plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty as outlined in the code of student conduct.

Graduate School information on Comprehensive Exams.

Fieldwork/Practicum/Internship Requirements

Students enrolled in College of Education courses that require a clinical placement should obtain professional liability insurance. Professional liability insurance may be purchased through an independent insurer or is available to students who are members of the Student Alabama Education Association (SAEA).

Admission to Candidacy

Students apply for admission to candidacy when they enroll in their last semester of coursework. Admission to candidacy entails completion of the following conditions: (a) the removal of any deficiencies imposed by the department or college, (b) the filing of a formal Plan of Study, and (c) the certification of the major department that the student is well qualified to continue work toward the degree.

Graduate School information on Admission to Candidacy.

Time Limit for Degree Completion

Graduate School information on Time Limits.

Additional Academic Requirements

Electronic Learning Management System Requirement

A designated, electronic learning management system is required of all students in programs leading to professional educator certification.

Academic Misconduct Information

Graduate School information on Academic Misconduct.

Withdrawals and Leave of Absence Information

Graduate School information on Withdrawals and Leave of Absence.

Academic Grievances Information

Graduate School information on Academic Grievances.

Grades and Academic Standing

Graduate School information on Grades and Academic Standing.

Graduate School Deadlines

Information on Graduate School Deadlines.

Application for Graduation

Information on the Application for Graduation.

Certification

The Alabama State Department of Education grants Class AA professional educator certification in special education (collaborative, early childhood special education, or gifted). To be eligible, students must hold appropriate prerequisite Class A certification and must complete all requirements for the EDS degree in the chosen program as described in this catalog, including *Praxis* subject assessment(s) (if applicable).

To be awarded Alabama Class AA Special Education certification, students must:

- earn a passing score on a comprehensive assessment covering the content of the program,
- maintain a GPA of at least 3.25 on all courses with no grade below a C,
- hold a valid, appropriate, prerequisite Alabama certificate, and
- complete the State Department of Education certification application forms

Students must complete the proper application form for Alabama certification. Forms are available online through the Alabama State Department of Education. Applications should be submitted to Student Services in 104 Carmichael Hall at least one semester in advance of graduation. A student who does not apply for professional certification within 60 months after completing the state-approved program will be required to meet the current program. Students who plan to seek employment in other states must secure the proper professional licensure application forms from those states' departments of education.

The certification programs of the department have been designed to fulfill current requirements of the Alabama State Board of Education. The state requirements change from time to time and, accordingly, the department's requirements and programs are subject to change.

The associate dean for student services in the College of Education has been designated the teacher certification officer for the University. Students who need information about or assistance with certification should consult the associate dean for student services.