Special education graduate programs are designed to bring improvements to the educational services accorded to exceptional children. Courses of study leading to the Master of Arts (MA) degree and Class A professional educator certification in the education of exceptional children are listed below:

Traditional Class A certification programs are available in
- autism (Class A, Innovative)
- collaborative education
- early childhood special education
- gifted and talented
- severe disabilities (Class A only)

Alternative Class A certification programs are available in
- collaborative education
- early childhood special education with dual certification in early childhood
- gifted and talented

Additionally, an Overseas master’s degree program in Special Education is offered to overseas students. The Overseas Program does not lead to professional licensure or certification.

While the graduate catalog is published annually, program checklists for state-approved certification programs may be updated more frequently and are thus likely to provide the most up-to-date information about requirements. Students should refer to the appropriate program checklists for their teaching fields and consult their advisors before registering each semester.

Admission Requirements

In addition to meeting admission requirements for the Graduate School and the College of Education, students interested in the special education programs should also be aware of the admission requirements established by the Alabama Department of Education.

A student in his or her last semester of work toward the master’s degree who does not need a full course load to complete the course requirements of his or her master’s degree may register for work toward the EdS degree, in the amount needed to complete full registration loads.

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

Traditional Class A Certification Programs

For admission to traditional Class A programs of study in collaborative education, early childhood special education, or gifted and talented education, the appropriate prior certification must be held in a teaching field.

For admission to the Class A program of study in severe disabilities, the appropriate prior certification must be held in early childhood special education or collaborative education.

For admission to the Class A program of study in autism, the prior certification must be held in an appropriate area of special education.

Autism, Class A (Innovative)

This course listing applies to candidates having appropriate prior certification in an area of special education. 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. Passing scores on the appropriate Praxis subject assessment(s) are required if changing areas of certification.

For admission, applicants must hold valid certification in an appropriate area of special education.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code and Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPE 531 Intro to ASD</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choose ONE of the following:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD 502 Psychology of Language</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD 505 Augmentative/Alt Communication</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD 509 Language Development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations of Professional Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEP 601 Family, Sch., Community Relat.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPE 501 Diag Assess Except Child Youth</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAT 531 Computer Based Instruction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching Field</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPE 502 Adv Behav Mgt Spec Educt</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPE 532 EBP for Ind ASD</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPE 533 Assessing Behavior Change</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPE 588 Autism Practicum</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Requirements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select 6 hours from the following</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>courses. (Courses taken as a requirement may not also be counted toward an additional requirement.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD 502 Psychology of Language</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD 505 Augmentative/Alt Communication</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD 509 Language Development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEP 505 Motivation and Self-Regulation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEP 541 Learning and Cognition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEP 550 Life Span Development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEP 561 Social Cult Basis Behavr</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEP 565 Personality &amp; Social Dev</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEP 570 Foundations of Educational Neuroscience</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEP 600 Contemp Educ Psych Prob</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSP 636 PBIS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSP 632 Behavior Interventions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSP 634 Adv Principles in ABA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SPE 500 is also required if a special education survey course was not completed as part of the undergraduate program or another graduate program.

Total Hours 33-36

Footnotes
* State-approved diversity course

Collaborative (K-6), Class A

This course listing applies to candidates having appropriate prior certification who begin this program June 1, 2017. 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. Passing scores on the appropriate Praxis subject assessment(s) are required if changing areas of certification.

For admission, applicants must hold valid bachelor's level certification in a teaching field.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code and Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Curriculum and Teaching:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPE 502</td>
<td>Adv Behav Mgt Spec Educt *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPE 503</td>
<td>Masters Seminar In Spe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPE 514</td>
<td>Teach Consult Model Spe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Foundations of Professional Studies:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Choose ONE of these SDE approved diversity courses.)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEF 503</td>
<td>History Of Amer Educn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEF 507</td>
<td>Sociology Of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEF 534</td>
<td>Multicultural Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEF 575</td>
<td>Found Educn Through Film</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEF 607</td>
<td>Readings In Soc Of Ed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEF 650</td>
<td>Critical Race Theory In Educ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEF 667</td>
<td>Multicult Soc Ed Leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEF 681</td>
<td>Ethics And Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Educational Research:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPE 501</td>
<td>Diag Assess Except Child Youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Technology:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAT 531</td>
<td>Computer Based Instruction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Teaching Field:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPE 591</td>
<td>Adv Academc Methods Elem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPE 594</td>
<td>Methods Severe Disability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPE 596</td>
<td>Collaborative Practicum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choose ONE of the following:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPE 583</td>
<td>Creative Prob Solving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRD 510</td>
<td>Expanding Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRD 511</td>
<td>Begin Rding Pre-K-Prim Grades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEE 580</td>
<td>Concepts of EC/ELE School Math</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEE 581</td>
<td>Early Child/Elem Math Curr Res</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Additional requirements:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPE 590</td>
<td>Intro Mild Disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPE 593</td>
<td>Intro Severe/Profound Disabili</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPE 500</td>
<td>is required if a special education survey course (or the following MAP courses: 311, 312, 413, and 414) was not completed as part of the undergraduate program or another graduate program.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours** 36-39

**Footnotes**

* SDE approved diversity course

**Collaborative (6-12), Class A**

This course listing applies to candidates having appropriate prior certification who begin this program June 1, 2017. 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. Passing scores on the appropriate Praxis subject assessment(s) are required if changing areas of certification.

For admission, applicants must hold valid bachelor's level certification in a teaching field.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code and Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Curriculum and Teaching:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPE 571</td>
<td>Educ Yng Child W/Disabl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HD 501</td>
<td>Child Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Foundations of Professional Studies:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Choose ONE of these SDE approved diversity courses.)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Early Childhood Special Education (P-3), Class A**

This course listing applies to candidates having appropriate prior certification who begin this program June 1, 2017. 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. Passing scores on the appropriate Praxis subject assessment(s) are required if changing areas of certification.

For admission, applicants must hold valid bachelor's level certification in a teaching field.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code and Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Requirements:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPE 571</td>
<td>Educ Yng Child W/Disabl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HD 501</td>
<td>Child Development</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Footnotes**

* SDE approved diversity course
BEF 503 History Of Amer Educn
BEF 507 Sociology Of Education
BEF 534 Multicultural Education
BEF 575 Found Educn Through Film
BEF 607 Readings In Soc Of Ed
BEF 650 Critical Race Theory In Educ

BEF 667 Multicult Soc Ed Leadership
BEF 681 Ethics And Education

Educational Research:
SPE 576 Assessment Young Childrn 3
BER 550 is also required if an evaluation and learning course was not part of the undergraduate program or another graduate program.

Technology:
CAT 531 Computer Based Instruction 3

Teaching Field:
SPE 502 Adv Behav Mgmt Spec Educ * 3
SPE 578 Meth Tch Yng Child W/Dis 3
SPE 575 ECSE Practicum 6

Additional requirements/electives:
(Choose ONE of the following or another advisor approved elective.)
CRD 511 Begin Rding Pre-K-Prim Grades 3
CEE 580 Concepts of EC/ELE School Math
CEE 581 Early Child/Elem Math Curr Res

SPE 500 is required if an assessment/evaluation course was not completed as part of the undergraduate program or another graduate program.

Total Hours 30-36

Footnotes
* SDE approved diversity course

Gifted (P-12), Class A

This course listing applies to candidates having appropriate prior certification who begin this program June 1, 2017. 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. Passing scores on the appropriate Praxis subject assessment are required.

For admission, applicants must hold valid bachelor’s level certification in an appropriate area of special education.

Code and Title Hours
Required courses:
SPE 582 Teach Gifted And Talld 3
SPE 583 Creative Prob Solving 3

Foundations of Professional Studies:
(Choose ONE of these SDE approved diversity courses.) 3

BEF 503 History Of Amer Educn
BEF 507 Sociology Of Education
BEF 534 Multicultural Education
BEF 575 Found Educn Through Film
BEF 607 Readings In Soc Of Ed

BEF 667 Multicult Soc Ed Leadership
BEF 681 Ethics And Education

Educational Research:
BER 500 Intro And Education 3
SPE 501 is also required if an assessment/evaluation course was not part of the undergraduate program or another graduate program.

Teaching Field:
SPE 581 Psy Gift Tal Child Yth 3
SPE 584 Spec Population Gift Educ * 3
SPE 585 Teaching Thinking Skills 3
SPE 589 (S.E.W.) ** 3
SPE 589 or 3 hours from a previous Class A certification program 3

Additional requirements/electives:
Advisor approved elective in content or special interest area (counseling, geography, space science workshop, children’s literature, etc.) 3

SPE 500 is required if a special education survey course was not completed as part of the undergraduate program or another graduate program.

Total Hours 30-36

Footnotes
* SDE approved diversity course
** Two 3-hour internships are required, one of which must be S.E.W.

Severe Disabilities, Class A

This course listing applies to candidates having appropriate prior certification who begin this program June 1, 2017. 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.

For admission, applicants must hold valid bachelor’s level certification in an appropriate area of special education.

Code and Title Hours
Required courses:
SPE 593 Intro Severe/Profound Disabili 3

Foundations of Professional Studies:
SPE 506 Working W/Families 3

Educational Research:
SPE 501 Diag Assess Except Child Youth 3

Technology:
CAT 531 Computer Based Instruction 3

Teaching Field:
SPE 502 Adv Behav Mgmt Spec Educ * 3
SPE 514 Teach Consult Model Spe 3
SPE 594 Methods Severe Disability 3
SPE 597 Transition In Special Ed 3

Additional requirements:
SPE 595 Severe Practicum 3
Additional courses from advisor approved cognate (Early, Autism, Assist Tech, Transition) 6
SPE 500 is required if a special education survey course was not part of the undergraduate program or another graduate program.

**Total Hours** 33-36

**Footnotes**
- * SDE approved diversity course

### Alternative Class A, Nontraditional, Initial Teacher Certification Programs

Special Education & Multiple Abilities offers teacher education programs that do not require prior certification in a teaching field. These programs lead to Alabama Alternative Class A certification in special education (collaborative teacher, K–6; collaborative teacher, 6–12; early childhood special education, P–3; or gifted, P–12) and are designed to allow individuals with undergraduate degrees in nonteaching fields to enter the field of education.

Admission to a nontraditional, alternative certification program in special education requires full admission to the Graduate School and the completion of specified undergraduate prerequisite courses.

For admission to the Alternative Class A (non-traditional) program in collaborative education, early childhood special education, or gifted and talented education, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- **Transcript evaluation:** Applicants should contact the Office of Student Services & Certification for a transcript evaluation to determine prerequisite courses.
- **Degree requirement:** An appropriate bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution with a minimum overall GPA of 2.75 OR a master’s degree with a GPA of at least 3.0 is required.
- **Assessment of basic skills:** Passing scores on the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators Tests of mathematics, reading, and writing are required. Information about the Praxis Core tests is available online at https://www.ets.org/praxis/about/core/ or in the Office of Student Services & Certification (104 Carmichael Hall).
- **General Studies and Teaching Field:** For Alternative Class A in Collaborative or Early Childhood Special Education, applicants must have completed 12 hours of coursework in each of four areas: English Language Arts, social studies, science, and mathematics. (This is called the 4 x 12 requirement.) Applicants who do not meet the 4 x 12 requirement have the option to earn a passing score on the appropriate Praxis subject assessment(s) in lieu of completing the deficient 4 x 12 courses. For Alternative Class A in Gifted, applicants must have an academic major in a discipline that is approved in the Alabama Course of Study.
- **Fingerprinting/background clearance**

### Collaborative (K-6), Alternative Class A

This course listing applies to candidates who have completed a baccalaureate degree at a regionally accredited college or university and who begin this program June 1, 2017. 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.

**Code and Title**  
**Curriculum and Teaching:**
- SPE 502 Adv Behav Mgt Spec Educt * 3
- SPE 503 Masters Seminar In Spe 3

**Foundation of Professional Studies:**
- BEF 510 Phil Hist Socl Founds Ed * 3

**Technology:**
- CAT 531 Computer Based Instruction 3

**Evaluation of Teaching and Learning:**
- SPE 501 or Diag Assess Except Child Youth 3
- BER 550 Eval Classroom Learning 3

**Literacy:**
- CEE 570 Teach Reading in ELE School 3

**Special Education Coursework:**
- SPE 500 is required unless SPE 300 (or the equivalent) was completed as part of the undergraduate program within the last 5 years. 0-3

**Internship:**
- SPE 598 Internship In Special Ed ** 3-6
- EDU 500 Internship Seminar 1

**Total Hours** 43-49

**Footnotes**
- * SDE approved diversity course
- ** Students seeking K-12 certification must register for 3 hours of elementary internship and 3 hours of secondary internship.

### Collaborative (6-12), Alternative Class A

This course listing applies to candidates who have completed a baccalaureate degree at a regionally accredited college or university and who begin this program June 1, 2017. 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.

**Code and Title**  
**Curriculum and Teaching:**
- SPE 502 Adv Behav Mgt Spec Educt * 3
- SPE 503 Masters Seminar In Spe 3
- SPE 514 Teach Consult Model Spe 3

**Foundations of Professional Studies:**
- BEF 510 Phil Hist Socl Founds Ed * 3

**Technology:**
- CAT 531 Computer Based Instruction 3

**Evaluation of Teaching and Learning:**
- SPE 501 or Diag Assess Except Child Youth 3
- BER 550 Eval Classroom Learning 3

**Literacy:**
- CRD 512 Impr Read Second Schools 3
Teaching Field:
SPE 583  Creative Prob Solving  3
SPE 590  Intro Mild Disabilities  3
SPE 592  Adv Academc Methods Sec  3
SPE 593  Intro Severe/Profound Disabilities  3
SPE 594  Methods Severe Disability  3
SPE 597  Transition In Special Ed  3

Special Education Coursework:
SPE 500 is required unless SPE 300 was completed in the undergraduate program within the last 5 years.  0-3

Internship:
SPE 579  Intern Ed Yg Child Div Abil **  6
EDU 500  Internship Seminar  1
Total Hours  43-46

Footnotes
* SDE approved diversity course
** The internship will include a placement with at least two of the following age groups: birth-age 3, age 3-5, and age 5-8. Placements will be in appropriate settings which include children with and without identified disabilities.

Gifted (P-12), Alternative Class A
This course listing applies to candidates who have completed a baccalaureate degree at a regionally accredited college or university and who begin this program June 1, 2017. 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.

Code and Title  Hours
Curriculum and Teaching:
SPE 583  Creative Prob Solving  3

Professional Studies:
BEF 510  Phil Hist Socl Founds Ed *  3

Technology:
CAT 531  Computer Based Instruction  3

Evaluation of Teaching and Learning:
BER 550  Eval Classroom Learning  3
SPE 501  Diag Assess Except Child Youth  3

Literacy:
CRD 512  Impr Read Second Schools  3

Teaching Field:
SPE 581  Psy Gift Tal Chld Yth  3
SPE 582  Teach Gifted And Taltd  3
SPE 584  Spec PopulArt Gift Educ *  3
SPE 585  Teaching Thinking Skills  3
SPE 586  Socl Emotl Compnts Talent Dev  3
SPE 587  Indiv Needs Talents Classroom  3

Special Education Coursework:
SPE 500 is required unless SPE 300 was completed in the undergraduate program within the last 5 years.  0-3

Internships (Two 3-hour internships are required.)**
SPE 589 (S.E.W.)  3
SPE 589  Internship Gift/Talent  3
EDU 500  Internship Seminar  1
Total Hours  43-46

Footnotes
* SDE approved diversity course
** Two 3-hour internships are required, one of which must be S.E.W.
Certification

The Alabama State Board of Education grants Class A professional educator certification in special education (collaborative, K-6; collaborative, 6–12; early childhood special education, P-3; gifted, P-12; or severe disabilities, P-12). To be eligible, candidates must hold appropriate prerequisite certification OR complete an Alternative Class A program and must complete all requirements for the MA degree in the chosen program as described in this catalog, including a comprehensive exam, state assessments (if applicable), and the Praxis subject assessment(s).

Non-Certification Overseas Program for Special Education, MA

This is a non-certification program offered only to overseas students. Completion of this program does not lead to professional educator licensure or certification.

Admission Requirements

Admission requirements for the Graduate School (Admission Criteria) and the College of Education (General Admission) are detailed in earlier sections of this catalog.

Degree Requirements

A minimum of 30 hours of course credit must be earned, and a comprehensive exam must be successfully completed. Candidates must present a GPA of at least 3.25 on all courses in the program, with no grade below a C.

Overseas Program Course Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPE 500</td>
<td>Intro Exc Childr/Youth</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPE 571</td>
<td>Educ Yng Child W/Disabl</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPE 501</td>
<td>Diag Assess Except Chld Youth</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPE 502</td>
<td>Adv Behav Mgt Spec Educt</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPE 503</td>
<td>Masters Seminar In Spe</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPE 506</td>
<td>Working W/Families</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPE 514</td>
<td>Teach Consult Model Spe</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BER 500</td>
<td>Intro Educatn Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 30

Group II: Electives

Students select THREE courses from the list below. Students may also choose courses not taken from the Group I list above or courses specifically approved by the Office of International Programs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BCE 514</td>
<td>Counseling Skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BCE 542</td>
<td>Med Aspects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEF 534</td>
<td>Multicultural Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BER 550</td>
<td>Eval Classroom Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIE 577</td>
<td>Second Language Acquisition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIE 579</td>
<td>Tch English For Lang Prog/Pol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRD 510</td>
<td>Expanding Reading</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>