

# SPECIAL EDUCATION

## Degree Requirements

### Master of Education (M.Ed.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-700 Professional Degree Policies (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>).

Prerequisites for the M.Ed. program include 10 credits basic to the education of exceptional children (courses comparable to SPLED 400, SPLED 403A or SPLED 403B, and SPLED 418). M.Ed. candidates are expected to complete the core:

| Code                          | Title                                                     | Credits      |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Required Courses</b>       |                                                           |              |
| SPLED 525                     | Teaching Learners with Disabilities in Inclusive Settings | 3            |
| SPLED 573                     | Introduction to Research in Special Education             | 3            |
| SPLED 521                     | Capstone Seminar in Special Education (or the equivalent) | 3            |
| <b>Electives</b>              |                                                           |              |
| Elective credits <sup>1</sup> |                                                           | 23-28        |
| <b>Total Credits</b>          |                                                           | <b>32-37</b> |

<sup>1</sup> At least 21 must be taken in special education and include courses selected by students in conjunction with their adviser.

M.Ed. students must submit a master's paper.

All requirements for the M.Ed. must be met within six years or a period spanning seven consecutive summers.

### Master of Science (M.S.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Policies. (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>)

M.S. candidates are expected to complete the core:

| Code                                                                                   | Title                                              | Credits   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Required Courses</b>                                                                |                                                    |           |
| SPLED 573                                                                              | Introduction to Research in Special Education      | 3         |
| EDPSY 400                                                                              | Introduction to Statistics in Educational Research | 3         |
| <b>Electives</b>                                                                       |                                                    |           |
| Of these 18 credits, 6 credits must be taken from one discipline outside of education. |                                                    | 18        |
| <b>Culminating Experience</b>                                                          |                                                    |           |
| SPLED 600                                                                              | Thesis Research                                    | 6         |
| <b>Total Credits</b>                                                                   |                                                    | <b>30</b> |

Students must complete a total of 18 credits in special education; and 18 credits at the 500 and 600 level, combined. M.S. students must submit a master's thesis and pass a comprehensive examination.

All requirements for the M.S. degree must be met within six years or a period spanning seven consecutive summers.

### Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Policies. (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>)

The communication and foreign language requirement for the Ph.D. degree is prescribed by each student's Ph.D. committee. Minimum requirements for the Ph.D. degree include:

- 24 credits of research methods;
- 18 credits in a cognate area such as psychology, sociology, or child development; and
- 36 credits in education.

The student also must enroll in SPLED 500 each semester prior to successful completion of the comprehensive examinations. A qualifying examination is required after the first semester of full-time study; written and oral comprehensive examinations also are required. A student is required to complete the program within seven years from the date of successful completion of the qualifying examination.