The Special Education major comprises the following concentrations:
The Master of Education degree in Special Education provides students with advanced understanding of contemporary research and practice issues in special education. Students in the program are typically interested in pursuing enhanced professional competence, career advancement, leadership roles, advocacy and systems change, or preparation for doctoral-level study. Students do not need to have an undergraduate degree in special education (or education) to be successful in the master’s degree, however, should be motivated to develop a deeper understanding of the field of special education.

Students in the M.Ed. Special Education major will develop advanced skills in: designing, implementing, and evaluating research-based practices that meet the special education needs of learners with disabilities; understanding the conceptual underpinnings of special education, as well as policies that guide its implementation in school and community settings; analyzing contemporary issues surrounding special education and the impact of exceptionality on individuals and their families; and understanding the roles that research plays in special education theory.

The M.Ed. degree program does not prepare students for teacher licensure; however, some of the coursework required for the degree may count toward licensure. Students interested in both licensure and a M.Ed. degree will need to apply and be fully admitted into both the master’s degree, however, should be motivated to develop a deeper understanding of the field of special education.

The Special Education major comprises the following concentrations:

- The ASL/English Interpreting concentration - admission to this concentration has been temporarily suspended.
- The Deaf Education concentration focuses on needs of students who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- The Early Childhood Intervention Specialist concentration focuses on needs of young children with or at risk for developmental delays or disabilities, birth to grade 3 (birth to 8) and their families.
- The General Special Education concentration provides a broad focus on special education across all ages and types of student needs. Students interested in the General Special Education concentration will work with a graduate adviser to develop a personalized plan of study.
- The Mild/Moderate Educational Needs concentration focuses on needs of students with mild to moderate educational needs who most often participate in the general education academic curriculum with special education supports.
- The Moderate/Intensive Educational Needs concentration focuses on students with moderate to intensive educational needs who most often require modifications to the general academic curriculum and/or other extensive special education supports.
- The Pre-Kindergarten Special Needs concentration focuses on the needs of children with or at risk for developmental delays or disabilities.
- The Transition to Work concentration focuses on needs of students with disabilities transitioning to adulthood.

**Fully Offered At:**
- Online (General Special Education concentration only)
- Kent Campus

**Accreditation**
The Council of Education of the Deaf

**Admission Requirements**
- Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university for unconditional admission
- Minimum 3.000 undergraduate GPA on a 4.000 point scale for unconditional admission
- Official transcript(s)
- Goal statement
- Two letters of recommendation
- English language proficiency - all international students must provide proof of English language proficiency (unless they meet specific exceptions) by earning one of the following:
  - Minimum 550 TOEFLPBT score - paper-based version
  - Minimum 58 PTE score
  - Minimum 6.5 IELTS score
  - Minimum 77 MELAB score
  - Minimum 79 TOEFL IBT score - Internet-based version
  - Minimum 777 TOEFL score

For more information about graduate admissions, please visit the Graduate Studies admission website. For more information on international admission, visit the Office of Global Education’s admission website.

**Program Learning Outcomes**
Graduates of the program will be able to:
1. Demonstrate knowledge of research applications in special education.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of contemporary issues in special education.
3. Demonstrate mastery of special education concentration (e.g., transition, mild/moderate, deaf education) content.

**Program Requirements**

**Major Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPED 63201</td>
<td>CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN SPECIAL EDUCATION</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPED 63204</td>
<td>LEGAL AND POLICY FOUNDATIONS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SPED 63300 RESEARCH APPLICATIONS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION 3

Multidisciplinary Electives, choose from the following: 6
CULT 69522 ETHICS IN PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE
EVAL 65510 STATISTICS I FOR EDUCATIONAL SERVICES
EVAL 68807 PROGRAM EVALUATION
RHAB 57712 ORIENTATION AND ETHICS: CLINICAL REHABILITATION COUNSELING
SPED 53309 INTRODUCTION TO DEAF STUDIES
SPED 63030 PHARMACOLOGICAL INTERVENTIONS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION
SPED 63956 FOUNDATIONS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES
SPSY 67973 CONSULTATION IN THE HELPING PROFESSIONS

Any other graduate level courses agreed upon by faculty advisor
Thesis Option (not required for graduation)
EVAL 65511 RESEARCH IN EDUCATIONAL SERVICES
SPED 60199 THESIS I

Concentrations
Choose from the following: 18-27

ASL/English Interpreting
Deaf Education
Early Child Interventional Specialist
General Special Education
Mild/Moderate Educational Needs
Moderate/Intensive Educational Needs
Pre-Kindergarten Special Needs
Transition to Work

Minimum Total Credit Hours: 33-42

1 Students in the Deaf Education concentration should not take SPED 53309.

ASL/English Interpreting Concentration Requirements
Admission suspended as of fall 2016

Code Title Credit Hours

SPED 63301 SINGLE SUBJECT RESEARCH METHODS 3
General Electives, as approved by advisor 15
Minimum Total Credit Hours: 18

Deaf Education Concentration Requirements

Code Title Credit Hours

SPED 63301 SINGLE SUBJECT RESEARCH METHODS 3
General Electives, as approved by advisor 15
Minimum Total Credit Hours: 18

Early Childhood Intervention Specialist Concentration Requirements

Code Title Credit Hours

SPED 63301 SINGLE SUBJECT RESEARCH METHODS 3

General Special Education Concentration Requirements

Code Title Credit Hours

SPED 63301 SINGLE SUBJECT RESEARCH METHODS 3
General Electives, as approved by advisor 15
Minimum Total Credit Hours: 18

Mild/Moderate Educational Needs Concentration Requirements

Code Title Credit Hours

SPED 63301 SINGLE SUBJECT RESEARCH METHODS 3
Mild/Moderate Educational Needs Electives, as approved by advisor 15
Minimum Total Credit Hours: 18

Moderate/Intensive Educational Needs Concentration Requirements

Code Title Credit Hours

SPED 63301 SINGLE SUBJECT RESEARCH METHODS 3
Moderate/Intensive Educational Needs Electives, as approved by advisor 15
Minimum Total Credit Hours: 18

Pre-Kindergarten Special Needs Concentration Requirements

Code Title Credit Hours

SPED 63950 CURRICULUM AND INTERVENTION IN EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES 3
or SPED 63958 EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION METHODS
SPED 63952 FAMILY AND PROFESSIONAL COLLABORATION IN EARLY CHILDHOOD 3
SPED 63953 PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS: BIRTH TO FIVE 3
SPED 63955 TYPICAL AND ATYPICAL DEVELOPMENT IN YOUNG CHILDREN 3
SPED 63956 FOUNDATIONS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES 3
SPED 63957 ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES 3
SPED 64892 ADVANCED PRACTICUM 3
SPED 64951 DEVELOPING AN INDIVIDUALIZED FAMILY SERVICE PLAN AND INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM 3

Minimum Total Credit Hours: 24

Transition to Work Concentration Requirements

Code Title Credit Hours

SPED 63301 SINGLE SUBJECT RESEARCH METHODS 3
Transition-to-Work Electives, as approved by advisor 15
Minimum Total Credit Hours: 18

Graduation Requirements

• No more than one-half of a graduate student’s coursework may be taken in 50000-level courses.
• Students have six years from the term of first enrollment to complete the degree.
• Students in the Deaf Education and ASL/English Interpreting concentrations must also pass the Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI) at the intermediate level for graduation. ASL/English Interpreting students may also pass the American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (ASLPI) at level 2 as an alternative to the SLPI.
• Students seeking a Reading Endorsement must see advisor before beginning ANY coursework.