Teaching and Learning, MA

Special Education

The Master of Arts in teaching and learning with a special education subprogram requires a minimum of 32 s.h. of graduate credit with a program grade-point average (GPA) of at least 3.00 for graduation.

The MA with a major in teaching and learning with a special education subprogram prepares scholars to deliver services to individuals with disabilities. The MA is available with licensure and non-licensure. Contact the Department of Teaching and Learning for specific program requirements.

The MA with licensure is available to individuals interested in becoming a special education teacher or enhancing their current teaching license. Students can prepare to work in elementary and secondary schools with individuals who have behavior disorders and learning disabilities, and/or mild/moderate disabilities. This pathway prepares graduates for positions in public schools, local and state education agencies, clinical settings, and institutions of higher education. See the section titled “Teacher Licensure and Endorsements” for more information.

The MA non-licensure is available to individuals interested in pursuing certification in applied behavior analysis (ABA). This pathway prepares graduates to become board-certified behavior analysts (BCBAs) and to provide services in education, community, or clinical settings. This pathway does not, however, lead to a teaching license to serve as a special education teacher. As part of the degree, graduates complete coursework in the college’s verified ABA course sequence: alterations to individual plans of study (e.g., required coursework for the MA) are possible pending advisor approval.

Teacher Licensure and Endorsements

Special education licensure and endorsement programs of the University of Iowa are approved by the state of Iowa. With this MA program, licensure preparation (preparation for initial licensure as a teacher) and added endorsement (an additional teaching area for licensed teachers) are offered with the instructional strategist II: behavior disorders/learning disabilities (BD/LD) K–12 endorsement. Added endorsement is offered with the instructional strategist I: mild and moderate K–8 and instructional strategist I: mild and moderate 5–12 endorsements.

In addition to this MA program, an added endorsement for K–8 instructional strategist I: mild/moderate is available with the Bachelor of Arts with major in elementary education.

Added endorsement programs for regular education endorsements may also be available.

TEP Academic and Professional Standards

For students who are enrolled for licensure preparation (preparation for initial licensure as a teacher), the state of Iowa teacher preparation standards require that teacher candidates demonstrate the content, pedagogical, and professional knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary to help all students learn. Because of this, the College of Education and the Teacher Education Program have established academic and professional standards that students must maintain. For graduate-level teacher candidates in special education, these standards include:

- a UI minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 in graded graduate courses (consistent with the academic standing policy of the Graduate College);
- a minimum TEP major GPA of 2.00 (2.70 for good standing);
- a grade of C-minus or higher in TEP major courses; and
- no notices of concern in professional dispositional qualities.

Liberal Arts Core

For students pursuing initial licensure as a teacher, the state of Iowa teacher preparation standards require a core of liberal arts knowledge including but not limited to English composition, mathematics, natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities. Students who have not completed these requirements with their previous coursework will need additional coursework. Bachelor’s degree graduates of the College of Education or the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences have met these requirements with the GE CLAS Core if a course in mathematics, statistics, or computer science was selected for the Quantitative and Formal Reasoning requirement. For additional information about these standards, contact the Office of Student Services.

Admission

Applicants must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College. They must have an undergraduate GPA of at least 3.00 and/or at least 3.00 on a minimum of 12 s.h. of graduate coursework. Applicants seeking initial teacher licensure must have at least 10 hours of documented experience in K–12 schools.