

EXCEPTIONAL CHILD EDUCATION

Master of Arts (MA) Delivery Online

This is a guide based on the 2026-2027 Graduate Catalog and is subject to change. The time it takes to earn a degree will vary based on factors such as dual enrollment, remediation, and summer enrollment. Students meet with an academic advisor each semester and use Degree Works to monitor their progress.

CURRICULUM CHECKLIST

30 hours – 3.25 GPA required for graduation

Core Requirements:

- ___ EL615 Research in Action (3)
- ___ EX601 Educational Assessment Techniques (3)
- ___ EX635 Psychology & Education of Students with Special Needs (3)
- ___ EX693 Special Education and the Law (3)
- ___ GR691 Methods of Research: Qualitative and Quantitative Designs (3)
- ___ GR698 Master's Final Comprehensive Examination (0)

Choose One Area of Emphasis:

AUTISM EMPHASIS

- ___ EX555 Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorder (3)
- ___ EX556 Communication Interventions and Strategies for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (3)
- ___ EX557 Behavior Management and Interventions for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (3)
- ___ EX558 Research Autism Spectrum Disorders (3)
- ___ EX691 Transition Planning for Individuals with Exceptional Learning Needs (3)

DIAGNOSIS & CORRECTION MATHEMATICS EMPHASIS

- ___ EL603 Teaching Elementary School Mathematics (3)
- ___ EL608 Diagnosis and Remediation of Difficulties in Learning Mathematics (3)
- ___ EX616 Behavior Management (3)
- ___ EX652 Techniques of Teaching the Mild/Moderate Cross-Categorical (3)
- ___ EX691 Transition Planning for Individuals with Exceptional Learning Needs (3)

EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION EMPHASIS

- ___ CE530 Foundation of Early Childhood and Special Education (3)
- ___ CE634 Assessing Young Children's Learning and Development (3)
- ___ EX507 Family and Child with Exceptionalities (3)
- ___ EX602 Language Acquisition for the Child with Exceptionalities (3)
- ___ EX616 Behavior Management (3)

ELEMENTARY LITERACY EMPHASIS

- ___ EX616 Behavior Management (3)

Choose 3 hours:

- ___ EL630 The Science of Reading I: Foundations of Literacy (3)
- ___ EL646 Aspects of Literacy Development and Acquisition (3)

Choose 3 hours:

- ___ EL631 The Science of Reading II: Assessing and Correcting Emergent Literacy Learners (3)
- ___ EL647 Reading Assessment (3)

Choose 3 hours:

- ___ EL648 Dyslexia and Reading Disabilities (3)
- ___ EL681 The Science of Reading IV: Developing Research Driven Instruction in Reading Comprehension & Writing (3)

Choose 3 hours:

- ___ EL680 The Science of Reading III: Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction in the Area of Language and Reading (3)
- ___ SE602 Effective Literacy Instruction at the Middle and Secondary Levels (3)

MILD/MODERATE CROSS-CATEGORICAL EMPHASIS

- ___ EX507 Family and Child with Exceptionalities (3)
- ___ EX602 Language Acquisition for the Child with Exceptionalities (3)
- ___ EX616 Behavior Management (3)
- ___ EX652 Techniques of Teaching the Mild/Moderate Cross-Categorical (3)
- ___ EX691 Transition Planning for Individuals with Exceptional Learning Needs (3)

TECHNOLOGY EMPHASIS

- ___ EX616 Behavior Management (3)
- ___ EX691 Transition Planning for Individuals with Exceptional Learning Needs (3)
- ___ SE600 Multimedia in Education (3)
- ___ SE617 Foundations of Educational Technology (3)
- ___ SE501 AI in Education (3)

TRAUMA & RESILIENCY STUDIES EMPHASIS

- ___ CF602 Trauma-Informed Care (3)
- ___ ED535 The Trauma Informed Professional (3)
- ___ EX602 Language Acquisition of Children with Exceptionalities (3)
- ___ EX616 Behavior Management (3)
- ___ EX691 Transition Planning for Individuals with Exceptional Learning Needs (3)

SECONDARY LITERACY EMPHASIS

- ___ EX616 Behavior Management (3)
- ___ EX691 Transition Planning for Individuals with Exceptional Learning Needs (3)
- ___ SE602 Effective Literacy Instruction at the Middle and Secondary Levels (3)
- ___ SE612 Responsive Literacy Interventions for Middle & High School Students with Academic Challenges (3)
- ___ SE638 Improvement of Instruction & Assessment (3)

Additional Note

- The Autism certificate is a 12-credit hour transcribed certificate and is included as a part of the Autism emphasis area. The certificate must be declared separately from the Exceptional Child program.

Admission Requirements

Note: This program is for individuals with an undergraduate degree in education who already possess teaching certification.

In addition to the criteria established for general admission to graduate studies, applicants must have the following:

1. An undergraduate grade point average of 2.75 or higher on a 4.0 scale

International applicants must also have a minimum IELTS Academic score of 7.0, TOEFL iBT score of 95, PTE Academic score of 64 or Duolingo English score of 125. *This requirement is for non-United States citizens who are not native English speakers. Students from countries where English is known to be the official language of education are exempt from English proficiency verification. For a complete list of countries, visit <https://semo.edu/international/admissions/policies.html>.*

An applicant having the prerequisite GPA of 2.75 may be given provisional admission prior to completion of all steps in the admission process. The program admission process must be completed within one calendar year. Failure to do so will result in reclassification as a non-degree student. Reinstatement to degree-seeking status will require a new application for admission. Courses taken prior to full admission will not necessarily be accepted toward meeting degree requirements.

For graduate studies admissions deadlines, visit

<https://semo.edu/admissions/requirements/graduate.html>.

Graduation Requirement

Students must attain an overall GPA of 3.0 to graduate from this program.



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DEGREE MAP

2026-2027



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