

Master of Arts (MA)

The Master of Arts in Exceptional Child Education at Southeast Missouri State University is an online graduate degree that offers three emphasis areas: Mild/Moderate Cross-Categorical, Autism, and Early Childhood Special Education. This program is designed to support general classroom teachers in their work with students with special needs in their classroom, help special education teachers deepen their teaching skills and knowledge in their field of expertise, or offer additional teaching certification. This graduate program does not lead to an initial teaching certificate, but does offer an add-on MO teaching certificate in Early Childhood Special Education. The graduate program in Exceptional Child Education has 30 credit hours of online course work, making the program convenient for busy classroom teachers.

Southeast Missouri State University is consistently recognized for academic excellence by the U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges Rankings for institutions in the Midwest and is fully accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education. In addition, the College of Education, Health and Human Studies has received national recognition for excellence from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), & Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI). This recognition highlights the College of Education's commitment of providing education of the highest quality and standards to students.

Graduate education at Southeast is guaranteed quality at an affordable price. Southeast offers competitive tuition rates for graduate students, compared to other online graduate programs.

MA in Exceptional Child students will...

- Be able to choose an emphasis area of study that meets their career interests and needs
- Get personal attention from a faculty advisor with expertise in the area of study
- Complete course work online and on their own schedule
- Complete research relating to issues in their own teaching
- Have the opportunity to earn additional Southeast certificates in Autism Spectrum Disorder or MO teaching certificate in Early Childhood Special Education

Career Planning

Graduates of this program may find new teaching opportunities with the increased expertise or certification. Teachers with this Master's degree are often considered leaders in their school setting and may also become curriculum specialists or team leaders. Graduates may also choose to continue their studies beyond the Master's degree for an advanced degree in exceptional child education, autism spectrum disorder, or early childhood special education.

Internship and Employment Opportunities of Recent Graduates/ Graduate Schools and Programs of Recent Graduates

- Autism Consultant
 - Perry County School District
- Early Childhood Functional Skills Teacher
 - Raytown School District, Kansas City
- Camp Connect Director (inclusive summer camp)
 - Southeast Autism Center

Admission Requirements

1. The applicant must have a valid teaching certificate OR a qualifying score on the state content exam appropriate for that certificate OR be in the 50th percentile verbal and analytic components of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
2. Undergraduate grade point average of 2.75.
3. 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.

MA: Exceptional Child

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This is a guide based on the 2018-2019 Graduate Bulletin 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

EXCEPTIONAL CHILD - 30 hours – 3.25 GPA required for graduation

- CE 614 Family / School Collaboration (3)*
- OR
- EX 507 The Family and the Exceptional Child (3)*
- EL 615 Research in Action (3)
- EX 601 Educational Assessment (3)
- GR 698 Master's Final Comprehensive Exam (0)

* Autism Emphasis must take CE 614

Choose one Emphasis Area:

Autism Emphasis

- EX 555 Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorder (3)
- EX 556 Communication Interventions & Strategies for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (3)
- EX 557 Behavior Management & Interventions for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (3)
- EX 558 Research in Autism Spectrum Disorder (3)
- EX 559 Clinical Practicum (3)
- EX 691 Transition Planning for Individuals with Exceptional Learning Needs (3)
- EX 693 Special Education and the Law (3)

Early Childhood Special Education Emphasis:

- CE 530 Foundations of Early Childhood & Special Education (3)
- CE 605 Issues and Trends in Early Childhood Education (3)
- CE 634 Assessing Young Children's Learning and Development (3)
- EX 559 Clinical Practicum (3)
- EX 693 Special Ed and the Law (3)

Choose three hours:

- EX 556 Communication Interventions & Strategies for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (3)
- EX 602 Language Acquisition of Exceptional Children (3)

Choose three hours:

- EX 557 Behavior Management & Interventions for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (3)

OR

- EX 621 Behavior Intervention Strategies (2)

AND

- EX 622 Behavior Intervention Strategies Internship (1)

Mild/Moderate Cross-Categorical Emphasis:

- EL 606 Curriculum Construction in a Multicultural Society (3)
- EX 602 Language Acquisition of Exceptional Children (3)
- EX 618 Introduction to Children with Exceptionalities (2)
- EX 619 Introduction to Mild/Moderate Cross-Cat Intern (1)
- EX 621 Behavior Intervention Strategies (2)
- EX 622 Behavior Intervention Strategies Intern (1)
- EX 652 Techniques of Teaching the Mild/Moderate Cross-Categorical (3)
- EX 691 Transition Planning for Individuals with Exceptional Learning Needs (3)
- EX 693 Special Education and the Law (3)

Recommended sequence of required coursework

- EX 556, EX 557, EX 558, EX 559 (pre-requisite – EX 555 Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorder)
- EL 615 Research in Action (pre-requisite - EX 601 Educational Assessment)
- GR 698 Action Research Project (pre-requisite - EL 615 Research in Action)

Degree Requirements

- The Autism Spectrum Disorder and Early Childhood Special Education emphasis areas require a practicum course that may be completed in a variety of settings, such as the Southeast Autism Center or the students' school district's early childhood special education program.
- The Autism certificate is a 15 credit hour transcribed certificate and is included as a part of the Autism emphasis area.
- The Early Childhood Special Education emphasis area offers a MO teaching certificate in Early Childhood Special Education for graduate students who already possess an Early Childhood Education certificate. In addition to the coursework, students must pass the Missouri Content Assessment: Early Childhood Special Education to earn the MO teaching certificate. This exam is not required for the Masters degree.