2026-27 Academic Year

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Master of Science in Education (MSE)

The MSE in Special Education program is designed to help professionals and districts meet the needs of students with exceptionalities and their families, while allowing you to develop culturally sustaining pedagogies and advocate for the needs of diverse learners. There are three program options leading to a master's degree:

- The **Special Education Advanced Study** is for students who currently hold a teaching certification in Special Education and are seeking deeper study in special education at the same level as their current teaching certification.
- The **Special Education Generalist Additional Certification** is for students who hold a current teaching certification. If their certification is not in Special Education and they are seeking to add a Special Education endorsement, they can add a subject endorsement at the K-8 or 6-12 level. If their certification is already in one level of Special Education, they can add the other subject endorsement level.
- The **Special Education Generalist Initial Certification** is for students who do not currently hold a teaching certificate but are seeking their initial certification in Special Education.

Wayne State academic programs are designed to prepare students for licensure or certification in Nebraska. If you plan to pursue licensure or certification in a state other than Nebraska, please check that state's licensing board to determine their licensing requirements.

fast facts

No entrance exams required

Credit hours: 30-47

Cost per credit hour: $427.45 total *(includes $261.90 tuition + $165.55 fees)*

Degrees offered:
- Master of Science in Education/Special Education Advanced Study
- Master of Science in Education/Special Education Generalist

Delivery method: Online

Department: Educational Foundations and Leadership

School: Education and Behavioral Sciences

focus on results

Skills Learned
- Special education curriculum development
- Best practices and methodology in special education
- Special education program management and administration

Possible Careers
- Elementary, middle level, or high school teacher
- After-school program manager
- Youth worker
- Behavioral specialist

Types of Employers
- Elementary, middle, and high schools
- Government programs
- Learning centers
- Disability and behavioral health centers

recognized for excellence

Wayne State College's Special Education master's degree is offered fully online as part of its nationally recognized graduate programs, combining affordability, flexibility, and leadership-focused curriculum for teachers and administrators.

Best Online Master's in Special Education
Wayne State made the "Best Online Master's in Special Education" list published by OnlineSchoolsReport (OCR) and was also identified as the third most affordable program in the U.S.

Accredited by CAEP
WSC's educator preparation programs are nationally accredited by CAEP, providing assurance that our programs meet rigorous standards of excellence.

Program courses

2026-27 Academic Year

The following courses are required for the program of study described on this sheet. Every effort is made to ensure this information is current, but please be aware that some content may have changed. To develop a plan for registering and taking these courses, please consult the current academic catalog and your advisor.

Special Education core courses (12 credit hours)

EDU 603 Introduction to Educational Research and Design 3
EDU 621 Education Program Orientation 0
SPD 545 Assessment Guiding IEP Development 3
SPD 611 Organization and Administration of Special Education 3
SPD 636 Social/Emotional Behavior 3

Focus area courses (18-35 credit hours)

Choose one of the following focus areas:

Advanced Study focus area (18 credit hours)

EDU 652 Instructional Theory and Practice....3
SPD 630 History and Characteristics of Exceptionalities....3
Select one of the following....3
EDU 626 Advanced Educational Psychology (3)
EDU 627 Current Issues and Trends in Education (3)
EDU 658 Fundamentals of Curriculum Development PK-16 (3)
EDU 674 History and Philosophy of Education (3)
EDU 682 Developing and Integrating Technology in the Classroom (3)
Select three of the following....9
SPD 520 Best Practices in Special Education Methods (3)
SPD 522 Teaching Exceptional Learners in Inclusive Classrooms (3)
SPD 560 Differentiation, Modifications, and Transition (3)
SPD 565 Differentiated Methodology (3)
SPD 652 Collaboration and Co-Teaching (3)

Generalist Additional Certification focus area (24 credit hours)

EDU 652 Instructional Theory and Practice....3
SPD 520 Best Practices in Special Education Methods....3
SPD 522 Teaching Exceptional Learners in Inclusive Classrooms....3
SPD 540 Program Design in Special Education....2
SPD 560 Differentiation, Modifications, and Transition....3
SPD 565 Differentiated Methodology....3
SPD 630 History and Characteristics of Exceptionalities....3
SPD 652 Collaboration and Co-Teaching....3
Select one of the following....1
SPD 561 Practicum in Special Education (K-8) (1)
SPD 562 Practicum in Special Education (6-12) (1)

Generalist Initial Certification focus area (28-35 credit hours)

EDU 545 Preparing for Level 3: Clinical Practice....0
EDU 658 Fundamentals of Curriculum Design PK-16....3
SPD 520 Best Practices in Special Education Methods....3
SPD 522 Teaching Exceptional Learners in Inclusive Classrooms....3
SPD 560 Differentiation, Modifications, and Transition....3
SPD 565 Differentiated Methodology....3
SPD 630 History and Characteristics of Exceptionalities....3
SPD 652 Collaboration and Co-Teaching....3
Select one or both of the following....1-2
SPD 561 Practicum in Special Education (K-8) (1)
SPD 562 Practicum in Special Education (6-12) (1)
Select one or both of the following....6-12
SPD 658 Clinical Practice for Special Education (K-8) (6)
SPD 660 Clinical Practice for Special Education (6-12) (6)

questions? contact:

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