Special Education (Teacher Certification), MEd

Please note that the credit hours have been adjusted starting Fall 2021 to include the certification coursework.

Moment by moment, day by day and person by person, educators ignite minds and strengthen communities. Graduate programs at Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College offer a blend of classroom instruction and professional experiences that prepare you to ask the right questions, navigate uncertainty and make a difference.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MEd Special Education (Teacher Certification)
This program is for those seeking Arizona teacher certification in special education. The MEd program in special education builds strong connections between theory and practice through quality classroom instruction paired with extensive professional experiences.

Students gain a strong foundation in teaching and content knowledge from experts in the field of education. Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College faculty actively engage in the educational research community and embed this vital knowledge throughout the program. This connection further empowers students to engage in their own research through the culminating action research applied project.

A series of professional experiences or field placements are designed to assist students in developing a thorough understanding of teaching and learning as they apply knowledge from their coursework in varied school settings. Individualized guidance through the professional framework provides students with the support they need to be successful in today's rapidly evolving educational environment.

The master's degree program in special education with Arizona teacher certification offers two options for students to earn a master's degree and Arizona teacher certification:

Master's and Arizona Certification (MAC): In this program, students take classes at an ASU campus two nights a week and are required to complete daytime field experiences for at least two semesters. During
the last semester of the program, students complete a full-time split residency: half the semester in a special education classroom and the other half in an elementary classroom. Students in the MAC program receive dual Arizona teacher certification in the following teaching certificates: Mild-Moderate Disabilities Special Education, K-12 and Elementary Education, grades 1-8. The mild to moderate areas include forms of emotional, behavioral, learning and orthopedic disabilities as well as intellectual disabilities and other health impairments.

Induction, Master's and Arizona Certification (InMAC): This program provides an alternative pathway to the Arizona teacher certification Mild-Moderate Disabilities Special Education, K-12, for full-time teachers on the teaching intern certificate. To qualify, individuals must secure a full-time teaching position. The InMAC program also features a partnership with Teach For America. Participants take classes one night per week.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College
- **Location:** Downtown Phoenix campus, Polytechnic campus, Tempe campus, West campus or online

Degree Requirements

33 credit hours including the required applied project course (SPE 593)

**Required Core (8)**

TEL 510 Instructional Design, Planning & Assessment (2)
TEL 511 Research and Evaluation in Education (2)
TEL 517 Creating Equitable Learning Environment: Decision Making and Action (3)
TEL 572 Educator Scholar Community III (1)

**Concentration Coursework (24)**

EED 536 Integrated Humanities (SS/ARTS/ELA) Methods and Assessment (3)
EED 537 K-8 Mathematics Methods and Assessment (3)
SPE 502 Language and Communication Methods and Assessment (2)
SPE 513 Instruction and Assessment for Learners with Exceptionalities I (3)
SPE 522 Instruction and Assessment for Learners with Exceptionalities II (3)
SPE 558 Special Education Foundations: Law, IEP’s, Assessment and Ethical Practice (3)
TEL 531 Instructional Methods for Language and Literacy (3)
TEL 540 Cultivating Networks of Culturally Responsive Relationships Among Families, Communities & Cultures (2)
TEL 570 Education Scholar Community I (1)
TEL 571 Education Scholar Community II (1)
Other Requirement (6 or 8 credit hours)

Elective (3 credit hours)

Culminating Experience (3 credit hours)
SPE 593 Applied Project (3)

Additional Curriculum Information

Students select one of the mild-moderate pathways, alternative certification or traditional certification.

Alternative pathway students choose six credits of apprentice teaching and internship. At least four credits must be apprentice teaching. Available other requirement coursework for this pathway are SPE 571, SPE 574, SPE 579 and SPE 576.

Traditional pathway students choose six credits of internship and student teaching. Available other requirement coursework for this pathway are SPE 556, SPE 570, SPE 576, EED 582 and SPE 578

- four credits must be internship, and
- two credits must be student teaching for one certification, elementary or special education

Students seeking dual certification in elementary and special education must complete both an EED and SPE student teaching placement, which extends the teaching certification coursework by two credit hours for a total of eight credit hours of other requirement coursework.

Please see the academic unit for the current list of possible elective coursework.
If a student plans to switch pathways mid-program, please reach out to the academic unit for appropriate advisement.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree, in any field, from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. three letters of recommendation
4. personal statement
5. resume
6. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of current residency.

The letters of recommendation should be from individuals who can speak to the applicant's potential for success in a graduate program.

The personal statement should describe the applicant's interests and reason for seeking this degree.

GRE scores are not required for admission.

Attend Online
ASU offers this program in an online format with multiple enrollment sessions throughout the year. Applicants may view the program description and request more information here.

Career Opportunities
Students gain skills in teaching, conducting research, utilizing technology and collaborating in teams which prepare them for educational careers working with diverse learners in grades K-12.

Career examples include:

- educator working in non-school settings
- K-12 special education teacher
- K-8 general education teacher
- special education director

Contact Information
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