

MA in Education: Special Education and Mild to Moderate Support Needs Education Specialist Credential

Azusa Pacific University's Master of Arts in Education: Special Education and Mild to Moderate Support Needs Education Specialist Credential program (<https://www.apu.edu/education/programs/masters-in-special-education-mild-moderate/>) prepares candidates to earn a Master of Arts in Education: Special Education degree along with an embedded Mild to Moderate Support Needs Education Specialist Preliminary Credential. This program includes comprehensive foundation courses emphasizing teaching and educational methods, as well as specialization courses providing content required for the education specialist credential. Practical classroom and fieldwork experiences provide application to theory, preparing candidates to teach in diverse settings. Advanced coursework in the emphasis area of special education provides candidates with knowledge needed to serve students with disabilities in TK-12 public schools. The mode of delivery includes face-to-face instruction, campus-based classes, distance learning, online courses, and clinical experiences.

Azusa Pacific University's Mild to Moderate Support Needs Education Specialist Credential program is approved by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) (<https://www.ctc.ca.gov>) and the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) (<https://caepnet.org>), and includes specific methods courses that are accompanied by practical classroom applications and clinical experiences in public school assignments.

Upon completion of the requirements listed below and all of the requirements detailed in the Steps to a Credential (<http://catalog.apu.edu/academics/college-education-behavioral-sciences/school-education/teacher-education/steps-to-credential/>), the candidate will have earned both a Mild to Moderate Support Needs Education Specialist Preliminary Credential and a Master of Arts in Education: Special Education degree.

Computer and Software Requirements

Each student must have a Mac or PC laptop or notebook running the latest operating system with a word processing program and a stable internet connection.

Course Requirements

Code	Title	Units
Core Courses		
TESP 501	Art of Teaching I: Foundations of Teaching	3
TESP 502	Science of Teaching I: How Students Learn	3
TESP 507	Multilingual Learners and Literacy Development	3
TESP 508	Literacy and the Humanities, TK-8	3
SPED 517	Art of Teaching II: Pedagogy and Instructional Design for Education Specialists	3
SPED 518	Science of Teaching II: Effective Assessment Strategies for Learners with Special Needs	3
SPED 526	Specialized Academic Instruction: Reading, Writing, and Math	3
SPED 528	Assessment and IEP Development: Mild to Extensive Support Needs	3
SPED 529	Positive Behavior Supports for Students with Exceptional Needs	3
TESP 553	Schools and Educational Systems	2
SPED 567	Clinical Practice: Mild to Moderate Support Needs ¹	8
TESP 557	Teaching Performance Assessment (TPA) and Literacy Performance Assessment (LPA) Support Course	2
Emphasis Courses		
EDUC 560	Action Research in Education	1
EDUC 556	Historical and Philosophical Perspectives of Disability Studies	3
EDUC 557	Current Trends in Curriculum and Disability Studies	3
EDUC 558	Research and Collaboration for Special Education	3
EDUC 569	Capstone Seminar	2
Elective Course ²		

- ¹ Refer to the [Clinical Practice Clearance \(https://catalog.apu.edu/academics/college-education-behavioral-sciences/school-education/teacher-education/steps-to-credential/clearance/\)](https://catalog.apu.edu/academics/college-education-behavioral-sciences/school-education/teacher-education/steps-to-credential/clearance/) requirements.
- ² Elective courses can be used toward the master's degree only for the individual needing additional units to complete the degree. Elective courses cannot be used to replace core courses or emphasis courses. The program is designed to be completed with 51 units; the use of elective units to complete the degree may increase the unit total.
- ³ May be taken for credit up to three times as an additional elective as long as topics are not repeated.

NOTE: A maximum of 8 units may be taken per 8-week session. Teacher candidates in master's degree programs who have opted to waive some coursework must take additional units to fulfill the unit requirement. Completion of all credential requirements—including all examinations, coursework, and other requirements—must be met before the master's degree will be posted. A Graduation Application (<https://www.apu.edu/student-services/registration/#gradproforms>) must be completed and fees paid by the deadlines set by the registrar.

NOTE: Candidates who hold an intern credential must enroll in a candidate support and supervision course (SPED 500) during each 8-week session (fall or spring) in which they are not enrolled in a clinical practice course.

It is the candidate's responsibility to submit a credential application through the Office of Credentials (<https://www.apu.edu/education/resources/credentials/>) upon completion of a credential program to receive his/her California educator credential.

Admission

University graduate admission and program-specific requirements must be met before an application is complete (see Admissions Information (<http://catalog.apu.edu/admissions/>)). **Program-specific application requirements are available online (<https://www.apu.edu/graduateprofessional/apply/>).**

International students should contact Graduate and Professional Admissions (<https://www.apu.edu/graduateprofessional/apply/>) for application procedures.

Program Learning Outcomes

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Students who successfully complete this program shall be able to:

1. Engage and support all students in learning.
2. Create and maintain effective environments for student learning.
3. Understand and organize subject matter for student learning.
4. Plan instruction and design learning experiences for all students.
5. Assess student learning.
6. Develop as a professional educator.