

SPECIAL EDUCATION MASTER OF ARTS


ONLINE

The Master of Arts Degree in Special Education is designed for the licensed educator who desires to become an accomplished special education teacher as well as earn an Illinois* LBS1 (Learning Behavior Specialist 1) endorsement. This program is designed to provide teachers interested in special education the knowledge and skills to work in a continuum of special education services (e.g., self-contained through inclusive). Graduates will be prepared to demonstrate competency and proficiency as a special education teacher regarding state and national special education standards (2020), informed by Individualized General Curriculum and Individualized Independence Curriculum standards (CEC, 2015). Emphasis on methods, assistive technology, and assessment for the following learners with disabilities' access needs includes: learning disabilities, social/emotional disabilities (internationally known as, and otherwise known as, emotional/behavioral disorders), intellectual disabilities (internationally known and formerly known as, mental retardation), physical disabilities, autism, multiple disabilities, other health impairment, and traumatic brain injury. The endorsement is designed for Illinois K-12 teachers: the LBS1 endorsement is issued for Kindergarten through age 22 on the student's existing Illinois Professional Educator License.

*The LBS1 Endorsement requires Illinois licensure. Students with out-of-state licensure are welcome to enroll in the MA Special Education program, but are not eligible for the Illinois LBS1 Endorsement. Questions regarding reciprocity by state should be directed towards the student's state of licensure, or ISBE.net (Illinois State Board of Education).

TARGET AUDIENCE:

Current General Education Teachers & any licensed educator who desires to become a special educator and earn an LBS1 K-22 endorsement.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Hold a valid initial or existing Professional Teaching License (PEL)

Two years of teaching acquired prior to completion of the graduate program
All applicants must meet the general admission requirements for Concordia University Chicago graduate programs as published in the Concordia University Chicago academic catalog.

New students are accepted into graduate degree-seeking, certificate, endorsement and/or post-graduate programs for online and on-campus study in the fall, spring, or summer semesters.

COST:

Contact the Admissions Counselor.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURE:

Each student will have an Admissions Counselor, and a Graduate Program Specialist (advisor) to support the application process, registration process, support throughout the program, and the graduation process

ACADEMIC CALENDAR:

Courses are offered in 8 week terms: Summer 1, Fall 1, Fall 2, Spring 1, Spring 2.

DELIVERY MODE:

Online, asynchronous

TEXTBOOK PURCHASE:

Slingshot

TRANSFER HOURS POLICY:

A transcript review will be conducted to determine any transfer credit where applicable.

TOTAL HOURS NEEDED:

30 hours

SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS:

CUC program will prepare you to gain the expertise needed to address the pressing issues facing education today. We offer a rigorous instruction founded in research-based, high-impact strategies with opportunities to apply theory to practice through observational experiences. You will work with professors with years of real-life experience in the field of special education ready to mentor you throughout your degree.

CONTACT PERSON(S):

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WEBSITE:

<https://www.cuchicago.edu/academics/colleges/college-of-education/division-of-curriculum-technology--inclusive-education/special-education-lbs1-ma/>

REQUIRED COURSES:

SPED-6230 – Assistive Technology: Principles and Practice (3)

SPED-6350 – Characteristics & Learning Needs of Students with Academic and Physical Disabilities (3)

SPED-6355 – Instructional Strategies for Students with Academic and Physical Disabilities

SPED-6360 – Characteristics & Learning Needs of Students with Specific Learning & Emotional Disabilities (3)

SPED-6365 – Instructional Strategies for Students with Specific Learning Disabilities & Emotional Disabilities (3)

SPED-6370 – Curriculum Based and Educational Measurements of Exceptional Learners (3)

SPED-6425 – Psychology & Methods of Teaching the Exceptional Learner (3)

SPED-6890 – Special Education Practicum 1: Content Area Learning & School Collaboration (3)

SPED-6895 – Special Education Practicum 2: Content Area Learning & Community Collaboration (3)