Exceptional Child

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 33 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 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. Additionally, National Education Association members are offered in-state tuition rates, plus 5% discount rate.

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 form a faculty advisor with expertise in the area of study
- Complete course work online and at their own pace
- Complete research relating to issues in their own teaching
- Have the opportunity to earn additional Southeast certificates in Autism Spectrum Disorder for 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
- 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.

To learn more
Office of Admissions
(573) 651-2590
admissions@semo.edu
www.semo.edu

To explore
the College
do not Education online, visit
http://www.semo.edu/education/

For advising
(573) 651-5998
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This is a guide based on the 2016-2017 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 DegreeWorks to monitor their progress.

**CURRICULUM CHECKLIST**

### EXCEPTIONAL CHILD - 33 Hours – 3.25 GPA Required

- CE 614 Family / School Collaboration (3)*
- OR
- EX 507 The Family and the Exceptional Child (3)*
- EL 606 Curriculum Construction in a Multicultural Society (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 559 Clinical Practicum (3)
- EX 691 Transition Planning for Individuals with Exceptional Learning Needs (3)
- EX 693 Special Education and the Law (3)

**Cross-Categorical Emphasis:**

- EX 602 Language Acquisition of Exceptional Children (3)
- EX 616 Behavior Management Techniques (3)
- EX 628 Introduction to Mild/Moderate Cross-Categorical (3)
- 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 Ed 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

**Cross-Categorical Emphasis:**

- EX 556 Communication Interventions & Strategies for Individuals with 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 transcripted 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.