

Master of Arts in Education: Special Education and Mild/ Moderate Disabilities Education Specialist Credential

Azusa Pacific University's Master of Arts in Education: Special Education and Mild/Moderate Disabilities 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/Moderate Disabilities Specialist Preliminary Credential. This program includes comprehensive foundations courses emphasizing methods alongside specialization courses providing content required for the disabilities 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 K-12 public schools. The mode of delivery includes face-to-face, campus-based classes, field experiences, and online courses.

Approved by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) and the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), which is transitioning to the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), Azusa Pacific University's Mild/Moderate Disabilities Education Specialist Credential program comprises specific methods courses that are accompanied by practical classroom applications and field experiences in public school assignments.

Upon completion, the candidate will have earned both a Mild/Moderate Disabilities Education Specialist Preliminary Credential and a Master of Arts in Education: Special Education degree.

Check with the Division of Teacher Education (<http://www.apu.edu/education/teacher>) for locations in which this program is offered.

Course Requirements

Code	Title	Units
Foundation Courses		
TESP 501	Art of Teaching I: Foundations of Teaching ¹	3
TESP 511	Art of Teaching II: Pedagogy and Instructional Design ¹	3
TESP 502	Science of Teaching I: How Students Learn ¹	3
TESP 512	Science of Teaching II: Effective Assessment Strategies for All Learners ¹	3
TESP 503	The Soul of Teaching: Tapestry of American Education	3
TESP 504	Schools and Educational Systems	3
Specialization Courses		
SPED 525	Methods of Teaching Reading and Writing	3
SPED 526	Specialized Academic Instruction: Reading, Writing, and Math	3
SPED 528	Assessment and IEP Development	3
SPED 529	Positive Behavior Supports for Students with Exceptional Needs	3
SPED 551	Clinical Practice I: Mild to Moderate Disabilities	2
SPED 552	Clinical Practice II: Mild to Moderate Disabilities	2
Emphasis Courses		
EDUC 550	Introduction to Research for Practitioners	1
EDUC 556	Historical and Philosophical Perspectives of Disability Studies	3
EDUC 557	Current Trends in Curriculum and Disability Studies	3
EDUC 558	Guided Research Project	3
EDUC 559	Procedures and Findings	2
Elective Courses ²		
EDUC 547	Special Topics in Educational Technology ³	3
Total Units ⁴		46-49

- 1 These courses must be completed prior to beginning clinical practice.
- 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 foundation, specialization, or emphasis course requirements.
- 3 May be taken for credit up to three times as an additional elective as long as topics are not repeated.
- 4 The program is designed to be completed with 46 units; the use of elective units to complete the degree may increase the unit total.

NOTE: A maximum of 9 units may be taken per 8-week session. Teacher candidates in master's degree programs who have opted to waive 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. An Intent to Commence and/or Graduate form (<http://www.apu.edu/graduateprofessionalcenter/registrar/forms>) must be completed and fees paid by the deadlines set by the registrar.

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