

## Special Education

### Overview of the Program

The Master of Arts in Education (M.A.) with a concentration in Special Education provides advanced academic study for persons working with or on behalf of individuals with disabilities. Candidates who possess a valid Preliminary Level I Education Specialist Credential in Mild/Moderate or Moderate/Severe Disabilities may combine their master's degree studies with coursework from their Professional Level II Education Specialist Credential program preparation. Candidates from related disciplines may pursue this advanced degree with consent from the Department of Educational Leadership and Special Education. Candidates must apply and be admitted both to the University and to the M.A. program in order to pursue this degree.

M.A. candidates may choose from any of the three different pathways which include:

1. Thesis/Project pathway (30 total units)
2. Cognate pathway (36 total units)
3. Individual Examination pathway (33 total units)

In addition to the M.A. core curriculum, M.A. candidates in Special Education will complete the Professional Level II coursework (9-12 units) as well as relevant elective coursework in consultation with their assigned M.A. advisor (units vary depending upon the M.A. pathway they select). For an overview of the three M.A. pathways, please refer to the table at the end of this document. For a comprehensive discussion of the M.A. program, please refer to the Masters of Arts Degree Student Handbook available online at: [www.sonoma.edu/education/Masters.htm](http://www.sonoma.edu/education/Masters.htm)

### *Level II Education Specialist Candidates Pursuing an M.A. in Special Education*

Currently, all Professional Level II Education Specialist core courses (EDSP 512, 513, 514 & 515) can be applied toward the Special Education concentration of the M.A. degree program. Please refer to the University catalog for a listing of the current courses offered. Qualified M.A. applicants in Special Education may enter in fall or spring semesters. Level II candidates who are concurrently accepted into the M.A. program would have the option of beginning the M.A. core curriculum during the first semester of their Level II course of study or waiting until after they have completed a portion of the Level II program. Candidates, however, are strongly encouraged to take the initial M.A. core course (EDUC 570) early in their preparation and to prepare a course of study integrating both the Professional Level II coursework with the M.A. core curriculum.

### *Non-Professional Level II Candidates Pursuing an M.A. in Special Education*

Qualified applicants to the M.A. program in Special Education may be accepted in both fall and spring semesters. Candidates from other programs seeking an M.A. in Education with a concentration in Special Education are expected to complete three or four courses in the Professional Level II program (EDSP 512, 513, 514 & 515), although they are not expected to formally enroll in the Professional Level II program in pursuit of this advanced credential. Priority for enrollment in all Level II programs is given to candidates seeking the Professional

Level II credential. Therefore, consent of the instructor is required before outside candidates may enroll in any Level II course.

### **Overview of the Coursework**

#### **Master's Core Coursework (9-12 units)**

*Candidates must take the required core course depending upon their pathway*

EDUC 570, The Reflective Educator (3 units)

EDUC 571, Research Paradigms in Education (3 units)

EDUC 572, Supervised Study for the Cognate Project (3 units)

EDUC 573, Supervised Study for the Individualized Examination (3 units)

EDUC 598, Developing a Thesis/Project (3 units)

EDUC 599 Supervised Research for Thesis/Project (3 units)

#### **Special Education Program Concentration Coursework (9-12 units)**

*Candidates must apply 9-12 of these units toward their M.A. degree.*

EDSP 512 (3 units)

Advanced Issues in Assessment, Curriculum, & Instruction of Students with Disabilities

EDSP 513 (3 units)

Current and Emerging Research and Practice in Special Education

EDSP 514 (3 units)

Advanced Communication, Collaboration, & Consultation in Special Education

EDSP 515 (3 units)

Advanced Legal Issues in Special Education

#### **Electives (6-18 units)**

Candidates have the opportunity to seek breadth or depth in a related area of study through completion of elective courses. The number of elective units needed to complete the M.A. degree requirements varies depending upon the M.A. pathway selected. Elective coursework may be drawn from other graduate programs in the School of Education, or other departments at Sonoma State University, such as psychology, counseling, kinesiology, or others. These courses are selected with the advice and approval of the M.A. advisor.