



The Master of Education in Special Education with a Preliminary Education Specialist Credential: Mild/Moderate

Learn to Understand and Motivate

The Master of Education in Special Education with a Preliminary Education Specialist Credential: Mild/Moderate (M/M) provides you with the knowledge and skills needed to be an effective teacher and have a profound impact on the lives of students. This program is aligned with the Education Specialist Authorizations and standards of the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC). You'll gain a professional understanding of the needs of diverse learners, explore the range of learning challenges for students, and implement strategies that improve student performance, regardless of ability.

This program is for professionals who are interested in advancing into leadership roles, or those who want to strengthen instructional strategies. Through this program, you are also eligible to receive a credential as part of the master's degree.

Program Highlights

- Develop skills to be an effective educator and advocate for exceptional individuals
- Gain competence in instructional design, including adaptations required to help special education learners achieve state standards for the curriculum
- Learn the uses of adaptive and augmentative technologies
- Build competence in positive behavioral support
- Enhance collaborative teaming and wraparound strategies to optimize student support and success

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MASTER OF EDUCATION IN SPECIAL EDUCATION WITH A PRELIMINARY ED SPECIALIST CREDENTIAL: MILD/MODERATE WITH INTERNSHIP OPTIONS (CALIFORNIA)

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The Master of Education in Special Education with a Preliminary Education Specialist Credential: Mild/ Moderate (M/M) is designed to provide candidates with critical skills needed to teach in inclusive classroom settings within the framework of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) structure. Designed for courses to be taken in sequential order, the program provides candidates with the opportunity to gain professional understanding, integrate research-based teaching practices with appropriate assessment of student work, meet the needs of diverse learners, and learn and apply the principles of Information Communication Technology (ICT) in the twenty-first century classroom and global learning community. The program also provides candidates with critical skills in laws and policies, positive behavior management and assessment needed to teach in inclusive classroom settings.

The Master of Education in Special Education with a Preliminary Education Specialist Credential: Mild/Moderate with Intern Option program provides the knowledge skills needed to successfully teach and impact the lives of students who have mild to moderate learning support needs. This program explores the range of educational learning problems and applies the latest teaching strategies to enhance the performance of students, no matter their abilities. The M.Ed. in Special Education is aligned with the Education Specialist Authorizations and standards of the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC). This program also allows candidates to obtain a Preliminary Education Specialist Credential: Mild/Moderate Credential with Intern Option (CA) as part of the master's degree.

The Master of Education focuses on practical, field-based experience that helps a candidate understand and critically evaluate education practices and provides strategies that can be immediately applied to teaching practices. The Master of Education is ideal for educators looking to move into leadership roles or improve their own instructional strategies.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Integrate knowledge/skills to create and sustain learning environments for TK-12 learners with M/M that support inclusive practices under the Multi-tiered System of Support (MTSS) framework, principles of universal design, and positive behavioral and social-emotional supports
- Integrate knowledge/skills to provide individualized support for all TK-12 learners with M/M from diverse backgrounds with a wide spectrum of physical, sensory, developmental, academic, behavioral and social-emotional needs
- Integrate knowledge/skills to make subject matter accessible and comprehensible for all TK-12 learners with M/M through a collaborative multidisciplinary team approach
- Integrate knowledge needed to use a strength-based, continuous improvement and evidence-based framework to design and plan inclusive learning activities for all TK-12 learners with M/M
- Integrate knowledge/skills to administer and analyze formal and informal assessments to determine eligibility, inform instruction, and identify research-based interventions for all TK-12 with M/M
- Integrate the knowledge to meet legal, ethical and professional obligations as an educational specialist and advocate for TK-12 learners with M/M and as a member of professional learning communities
- Reflect critically on the application of professional beliefs and teaching/learning principles necessary to work collaboratively with TK-12 learners with M/M, families, other professionals and community members
- Critique current research in special education theory and practices within inclusive and culturally responsive frameworks
- Synthesize research methodology and findings as a professional educator, life-long learner and scholar (consumer and producer of research)

Degree Requirements

The Master of Education with a Preliminary Education Specialist Credential: Mild/Moderate (M/M), is designed to address both the Education Specialist standards and the program-specific standards, including the Teacher Performance Expectations and California Standards for the Teaching Profession. This program adheres to the CTC Universal Teaching performance Expectations (TPEs) and the TPEs for Credential Authorization for the Mild/Moderate. The TPEs form the backbone of the program and are translated into the Program Learning Outcomes. To receive a Master of Education with a Preliminary Education Specialist Credential: M/M, candidates must complete 18 courses (76.5 quarter units). Candidates must complete at least 54 quarter units of graduate credit in residence at National University. Further information on graduate admission and evaluation can be found in the Academic Information for Graduate Degrees section of the catalog.

Admission

To receive a California Preliminary Education Specialist Teaching Credential, candidates are required to successfully complete core courses, specialization (advanced) courses, and a clinical practice path to supervised teaching (student teaching or internship). Several requirements must be completed prior to beginning the credential courses. A Credential Packet must be completed during SPD 600S. Further information on graduate admission and evaluation can be found in the Academic Information for Graduate Degrees section of the general catalog.

Field Experience

Field Experience is a required component of the program. Each Education Specialist Credential course includes a required 4-hour field experience in a TK-12 classroom representing the candidates credential area and a diverse student population.

Clinical Practice

Candidates must complete one of two clinical practice options: student teaching or internship option.

- Student Teaching requires 16 weeks working in a classroom with a teacher with a valid Education Specialist Credential. Student teaching is conducted at the completion of the required 15 courses.
- Internship is an alternative credential path which is a cooperative effort between a school district and an institution of higher education. The program allows credential candidates to be employed while completing a credential program. The internship program is a minimum of 8 months in length. Participants serve as the 'teacher of record' under an internship credential.

The CTC mandates that interns and student teachers must be supported during their entire internship experience.

Internship Option

Candidates choosing the Internship option to obtain the Preliminary Education Specialist Credential: Moderate/Severe (M/S) will need to meet the Internship Eligibility requirements. Courses required include SPD 600S, ITL 530 and ITL 604.

The CTC mandates that all approved internship programs require a minimum of 120 hours of pre-service coursework prior to becoming the teacher of record (4.5 quarter units are equal to 40 clock hours). These pre-service courses must be successfully completed prior to eligibility for completing the internship option.

Total Degree Requirements

(18 Courses; 76.5 quarter units)

CCore Requirements Mild/Moderate (M/M)

(11 courses; 49.5 quarter units)

SPD 600S*	Foundation Preparation: SPED <i>Prerequisite: Non-Course Requirement See Admission requirements above</i>
ITL 604**	Learners and Learning I <i>Prerequisite: ITL 602</i>
ITL 530	Optimized Learning Community
ITL 606	Learners and Learning II <i>Prerequisite: ITL 604</i>
ITL 608	Design and Process of Teaching <i>Prerequisite: ITL 606</i>
ITL 510	Language-Literacy: Foundation

- ITL 512 Language/Literacy: Strategies
Prerequisite: ITL 510
- ITL 516** Mathematics Integrative Design
Prerequisite: ITL 514
- SPD 621 Adv. Behavioral Supports & SEL
Prerequisite: ITL 516
- SPD 631 Special Ed Law
Prerequisite: SPD 621
- SPD 514 Lang/Lit – Case Study
Prerequisite: SPD 631

**Must be taken as first course in sequence.*

***Prerequisite requirements are NOT required for candidates in the Ed Specialist programs.*

Mild/Moderate (M/M) Specialized Requirements

(2 courses; 9 quarter units)

Candidates must complete all core courses prior to enrollment in the specialized courses.

- SPD 643 Assmnt Differentiation M/S
Prerequisite: SPD 514
- SPD 645 Collab & Case Mgmt M/S
Prerequisite: SPD 643

Credential Prerequisite

(1 course; 4.5 quarter units)

HEDX 2301X Intro Health Ed: K-12

Mild/Moderate (M/M) Clinical Practice Requirements – Student Teaching or Internship

(2 courses; 4.5 quarter units)

Candidates must complete all core and specialized courses prior to enrollment in the student teaching courses.

- SPD 552A Student Teaching for M/M: A
(2.25 quarter units)
Prerequisite: Must complete All core coursework in M/M program
- SPD 552B Student Teaching for M/M: B
(2.25 quarter units)
Prerequisite: SPD 552A

OR

Candidates must meet intern eligibility requirements prior to being enrolled in Internship courses.

- SPD 693A M/M-Internship: A
(2.25 quarter units)
Prerequisite: Receipt of Internship Credential
- SPD 693B M/M Internship: B
(2.25 quarter units)
Prerequisite: SPD 693A

Master's Capstone Requirements

(2 courses; 9 quarter units)

Candidates must complete all course work prior to beginning the capstone requirements.

- SPD 695 Understanding Edu. Research
- SPD 696 Capstone Project
Prerequisite: SPD 695