



SANFORD COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

# MASTER OF EDUCATION IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

WITH A PRELIMINARY EDUCATION SPECIALIST CREDENTIAL:  
MODERATE/SEVERE WITH INTERNSHIP OPTION (CALIFORNIA)

## Learn to Understand and Motivate

The Master of Education in Special Education with a Preliminary Ed Specialist Credential: Moderate/Severe with Internship Option program at National University will prepare you to successfully teach and impact the lives of students who have moderate to extensive learning support needs. The program focuses on practical experience and provides educational practices and strategies that can be immediately implemented in the classroom. If you're looking to advance into a leadership position or enhance instructional strategies, this program is for you.

You will gain the critical skills needed to create an inclusive classroom environment within the framework of UDL and MTSS. Each course is designed to be taken in sequence. The internship is an alternative credential path,

meaning you can continue working while completing the credential program.

### 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 EDUCATION SPECIALIST CREDENTIAL: MODERATE/SEVERE WITH INTERNSHIP OPTION (CALIFORNIA)

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The Master of Education in Special Education with a Preliminary Education Specialist Credential: Moderate/Severe (M/S) 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 21st 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 (M.Ed. in SPD) with a Preliminary Education Specialist Credential: Moderate/Severe (M/S) with Intern Option (CA) program at National University provides the knowledge and skills needed to successfully teach and impact the lives of students who have moderate to extensive 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. This program also allows candidates to obtain a Preliminary Education Specialist Credential: Moderate/Severe with Intern Option (CA) as part of the master's degree.

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

### Program Disclosure Information

The Master of Education in Special Education with a Preliminary Ed Specialist Credential: Moderate/Severe with Internship Option program is currently operating using credentialing guidelines for California **only**. Students who wish to use this program for credential in other states must contact the appropriate regulatory board for more information. Students who reside outside of California who wish to participate in the program will need to receive special permission.

For up-to-date information on program licensure eligibility requirements for a state, please visit: <https://www.nu.edu/licensuredisclosures/>

### 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/S 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/S from diverse backgrounds with a wide spectrum of physical, sensory, developmental, academic, behavioral, social-emotional verbal and non-verbal communication needs.
- Integrate knowledge/skills in movement, mobility, sensory, and specialized healthcare needs to make school subject matter and community resources accessible and comprehensible for all of TK-12 learners with M/S 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/S.
- 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 learners with M/S.
- Integrate the knowledge to meet legal, ethical and professional obligations as an educational specialist and advocate for TK-12 learners with M/S 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/S, 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: Moderate/Severe (M/S) program is designed to address both Education Specialist standards and 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 Moderate/Severe. 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/S), 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)

### Program Prerequisite

(1 course; 4.5 quarter units)

HEDX 2301X Intro Health Ed: K-12

### Core Requirements Moderate/Severe (M/S)

(11 courses; 49.5 quarter units)

SPD 600S	Foundation Preparation: SPED
ITL 604	Learners and Learning 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: Foundations
ITL 512	Language/Literacy: Strategies <i>Prerequisite: ITL 510</i>
ITL 516*	Mathematics Integrative Design <i>Prerequisite: ITL 514</i>

- 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*

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

### **Moderate/Severe (M/S) Specialized Requirements**

(2 courses; 9 quarter units)

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

### **M/S Clinical Practice: Student Teaching or Internship**

(2 courses; 4.5 quarter units)

- SPD 550A Student Teaching for M/S: A (2.25 quarter units)  
*Prerequisite: Completion of all M/S core course work.*
- SPD 550B Student Teaching for M/S: B (2.25 quarter units)  
*Prerequisite: SPD 550A*

**or**

- SPD 691A M/S Internship: A (2.25 quarter units)  
*Prerequisite: Receipt of Internship Credential*
- SPD 691B M/S Internship: B (2.25 quarter units)  
*Prerequisite: SPD 691A*

### **Master's Capstone Requirements**

(2 courses; 9 quarter units)

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

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