



2017-2018 PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS
Award: Graduate Certificate in Education
Program of Study: Exceptional Learner/Special Education (EDSE)

About This Major . . .

This graduate certificate is designed for education professionals to earn an endorsement to work with K-12 students with exceptionalities in accordance with the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) standards.

Admission to the program follows the stated guidelines for graduate admission procedures outlined in the university catalog. Additionally, students must provide three letters of reference and a statement of purpose.

This certificate program prepares candidates, who must already hold a Master's Degree, to take the PRAXIS exam and apply for a Colorado Department of Education Special Education Generalist Licensure.

Students must hold a valid teaching license to be considered for the certificate program. The certificate is granted after completion of all courses with a grade of B or better and a ranking of proficient or better on all elements of a Capstone Project. All CMU program completers are expected to demonstrate proficiency in critical thinking, communication fluency, quantitative fluency, and specialized knowledge/applied learning. In addition to these campus-wide student learning outcomes, all recipients of an Exceptional Learner/Special Education Graduate Certificate will be able to:

1. Create and deliver oral and written communication based on sound educational theory and research in guiding instruction for learners who are exceptional. (Communication Fluency)
2. Evaluate and formulate education plans based on research and legal requirements outlined in federal legislation. (Critical Thinking and Specialized Knowledge)
3. Synthesize, evaluate, and refine information from an information base of scholarly resources. (Information Literacy)
4. Evaluate and articulate responses to moral, ethical, legal, and professional challenges from the perspective of an advocate for learners who are exceptional. (Ethical Reasoning)
5. Employ statistically valid processes to analyze assessment data to evaluate student learning with respect to district, state, and federal goals. (Qualitative Fluency)
6. Work individually and collaboratively on research-based change and innovation in Education. (Specialized Knowledge and Applied Learning)

Advising Process and DegreeWorks

This document is intended for informational purposes to help determine what courses and associated requirements are needed to earn a certificate. Some courses are critical to complete in specific semesters while others may be moved around. Meeting with an academic advisor is essential in planning courses and discussing the suggested course sequencing. It is ultimately the student's responsibility to understand and fulfill the requirements for her/his intended certificate.

DegreeWorks is an online degree audit tool available in MAVzone. It is the official record used by the Registrar's Office to evaluate progress towards a certificate and determine eligibility for graduation. Students are responsible for reviewing their DegreeWorks audit on a regular basis and should discuss questions or concerns with their advisor or academic department head. Discrepancies in requirements should be reported to the Registrar's Office.

Graduation Process

Students must complete the following in the first two months of the semester prior to completing their certificate requirements (for one semester certificates complete in the first week of class):

- Review their DegreeWorks audit and create a plan that outlines how unmet requirements will be met in the final semester.
- Meet with their advisor and modify their plan as needed. The advisor must approve the final plan.
- Submit the "Intent to Graduate" form to the Registrar's Office to officially declare the intended graduation date and commencement ceremony plans.
- Register for all needed courses and complete all requirements for each degree sought.

Submission deadlines and commencement details can be found at <http://www.coloradomesa.edu/registrar/graduation.html>.

If your petition for graduation is denied, it will be your responsibility to apply for graduation in a subsequent semester. Your "Intent to Graduate" does not automatically move to a later graduation date.

INSTITUTIONAL GRADUATE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The following institutional requirements apply to all CMU graduate-level degrees. Specific programs may have different requirements that must be met in addition to institutional requirements.

- Graduate certificates consist of a minimum of 5 credit hours. Master's degrees consist of a minimum of 30 credit hours. Doctoral degrees consist of a minimum of 60 credit hours
- All credits in a graduate program must be minimally at the 500-level.
- At least fifty percent of the credit hours must be taken at CMU.
- Students must achieve a 3.00 cumulative GPA or higher in all CMU coursework.
- A course may only be used to fulfill one requirement for each degree/certificate.
- Capstone exit assessment/projects (e.g., Major Field Achievement Test) requirements are identified under Program-Specific Requirements.
- The Catalog Year determines which program sheet and certificate requirements a student must fulfill in order to graduate. Visit with your advisor or academic department to determine which catalog year and program requirements you should follow.
- See "Requirements for Graduate Degrees and Certificates" in the catalog for a complete list of graduation requirements.

PROGRAM-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

- 24 semester hours for the Graduate Certificate in Education, Exceptional Learner
- Students must earn a "B" in every class at the graduate level.
- A master's degree from an accredited college is required, prior to beginning the program.
- Applicants must hold a valid Professional Colorado Educator License. It is recommended that students work closely with a faculty advisor when selecting courses and scheduling classes prior to registration.

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE: EDUCATION, EXCEPTIONAL LEARNER REQUIREMENTS (24 semester hours)

- EDSE 500 - Foundations of Special Education Including Legal Implications (3)
 - EDSE 501 - Instructional Strategies in Special Education (3)
 - EDSE 502 - Behavioral Interventions for the Learner with Special Needs (3)
 - EDSE 503 - Methods of Teaching Students w/Mild Disabilities Reading & Math (3)
 - EDSE 506 - Low Incidence Disabilities in Inclusive Environments (3)
 - EDSE 510 - The Learner who is Twice Exceptional Including Gifted/Talented (3)
 - EDSE 515 - Elementary Practicum in Special Education (3)
 - EDSE 520 - Secondary Practicum in Special Education (3)
- Capstone Project: The Graduate Certificate, EDSE requires the successful completion of a Capstone Project. The Capstone Project demonstrates a synthesis of learning.

SUGGESTED COURSE SEQUENCING

Year One, Summer Semester

- EDSE 500 - Foundations of Special Education Including Legal Implications (3)

Year One, Fall Semester

- EDSE 501 - Instructional Strategies in Special Education (3)
 - EDSE 503 - Methods of Teaching Students w/Mild Disabilities Reading & Math (3)
 - EDSE 515 - Elementary Practicum in Special Education (3)
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Year Two, Spring Semester

- EDSE 502 - Behavioral Interventions for the Learner with Special Needs (3)
- EDSE 506 - Low Incidence Disabilities in Inclusive Environments (3)
- EDSE 520 - Secondary Practicum in Special Education (3)

Year Two, Summer Semester

- EDSE 510 - The Learner who is Twice Exceptional Including Gifted/Talented (3)
 - Capstone Project
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