



**2017-2018 PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**  
**Degree: Master of Arts in Education**  
**Program of Study: Exceptional Learner/Special Education (EDSE)**

**About This Major . . .**

The Master of Arts in Education, Exceptional Learner/Special Education is designed as a dynamic program to meet the needs of education professionals as they gain additional expertise in one or more state endorsement areas. The degree is awarded after successful completion of 35 semester hours and a Capstone Project. The program is designed to provide the student with 11 hours of Master's foundation knowledge in theory of curriculum design and assessment, educational technology, culture and pedagogy, and research. The subsequent courses focus on Exceptional Learner/Special Education skills and competencies.

The program is designed in accordance with the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) accreditation standards for Special Education generalist endorsement and approved by the Colorado Department of Education. 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 from the profession, educator professional license, and a statement of purpose. Only students with valid teaching licensure will be considered for admission. The degree is granted after completion of all courses with a grade of B or better and a ranking of proficient or better on a Capstone Project.

All CMU master-level graduates 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, a Master of Arts in Education (Exceptional Learner/Special Education) graduate 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. (Quantitative 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**

- 35 semester hours for the Master of Arts in Education, Exceptional Learner/Special Education.
- Students must earn a “B” in every course at the graduate level.
- A bachelor’s degree from an accredited college is required, prior to beginning the program.
- Admission to the program follows the general admissions policies and procedures for graduate programs outlined in the university catalog and online.
- A Statement of Purpose commenting on your personal educational philosophy and interest in the program and evidence of active involvement with youth and a copy of your Colorado Teaching Certificate are required.
- It is recommended that students work closely with a faculty advisor when selecting courses and scheduling classes prior to registration.

**MASTER OF ARTS: EDUCATION, EXCEPTIONAL LEARNER/SPECIAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS** (35 semester hours)

**Core Courses** (11 credits)

- EDUC 500 - Culture and Pedagogy (3)
- EDUC 501 - Educational Technology (2)
- EDUC 502 - Theory, Design, and Assessment of Curriculum (3)
- EDUC 503 - Introduction to Educational Research and Design (3)

**Exceptional Learner Courses** (24 semester hours)

- EDSE 500 - Foundations of Special Education Including Law (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 - Educating Students with Low Incidence Disabilities in Inclusive Environments (3)
- EDSE 510 - The Learner who is Twice Exceptional Including Gifted and Talented (3)
- EDSE 515 - Internship K-6 Elementary Practicum in Special Education (3)
- EDSE 520 - Internship 7-12 Secondary Practicum in Special Education (3)

**Additional Requirements**

- Capstone Project: Students are required to achieve proficiency on all elements of a Capstone Project completed by the final semester of the program. The Capstone Project evaluates the critical thinking and problem solving skills of candidates in relation to the Colorado Special Education, Generalist standards.

## SUGGESTED COURSE SEQUENCING

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### **Year One, Summer Semester: 9 credits**

- EDUC 502 - Theory, Design, and Assessment of Curriculum (3)
- EDUC 503 - Introduction to Educational Research and Design (3)
- EDSE 500 - Foundations of Special Education Including Law (3)

### **Year One, Fall Semester: 11 credits**

- EDUC 501 - Educational Technology (2)
  - EDSE 501 - Instructional Strategies in Special Education (3)
  - EDSE 503 - Methods of Teaching Students w/Mild Disabilities Reading & Math (3)
  - EDSE 515 - Internship K-6 Elementary Practicum in Special Education (3)
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### **Year Two, Spring Semester: 9 credits**

- EDSE 502 - Behavioral Interventions for the Learner with Special Needs (3)
- EDSE 506 - Educating Students with Low Incidence Disabilities in Inclusive Environments (3)
- EDSE 520 - Internship 7-12 Secondary Practicum in Special Education (3)

### **Year Two, Summer Semester: 6 credits**

- EDUC 500 - Culture and Pedagogy (3)
  - EDSE 510 - The Learner Who is Twice Exceptional, Including Gifted and Talented (3)
  - Capstone Project
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