Master of Arts Degree in Special Education
Option in Mild/Moderate Disabilities

The Master of Arts degree in Special Education provides administrators, teachers, and therapists with advanced preparation for work with exceptional learners. Master’s degree candidates must incorporate the specialist credential requirements in their area of specialization as a part of their program. (This requirement may be waived for personnel such as nurses, occupational or physical therapists, or orientation and mobility specialists.) The master’s degree programs include a choice among 13 options. A minimum of 45 units is required, including at least 23 units in 500-level courses (at least 26 units in 500-level courses for the Autism Option). The program has four components: (1) Credential requirements; (2) master’s degree core; (3) required specialization courses and electives approved by the adviser; and (4) a comprehensive examination or thesis/project. See Restrictions on Credit Earned in Variable Unit Courses in the Charter College of Education section of the Academic Programs: College-based and University-wide chapter of the university catalog.

Required Core (8 units)
EDSP 500 Research Methods in Special Education (4)
EDSP 501 Problems and Practices in Special Education (4) or
EDSP 511 Seminar: Issues and Strategies for Multicultural Special Education Students (4)

Other Required Courses (26 units)
EDSP 409 Assessment for Individuals with Exceptional Needs in Diverse Educational Settings (4)
EDSP 413 Student Behavior and Social Interaction Skills: Support for Individuals with Special Needs (4)
EDSP 450 Teaching Students with Mild to Severe Disabilities (4)
EDSP 512 Building Partnerships in Special Education (2)
EDSP 552 Teaching Students with Reading and Writing Disabilities I (4) or
EDSP 555 Advanced Methods in Mild/Moderate (4)
EDSP 556 Research in Mild/Moderate Disabilities (4)

Electives (0-8 units)**
Select from the credential program or from related courses such as those listed below as approved by the advisor. For students electing the Comprehensive Examination Option, at least 4 units must be at 500-level.

Comprehensive Examination/Thesis or Project (0-7 units)
EDSP 596 Comprehensive Examination (0) or
EDSP 599A Thesis or Project Planning (3) and
EDSP 599B Thesis or Project (2) and
EDSP 599C Thesis or Project (2)

Minimum Units 45

(It is each student’s responsibility to check the Future Course Offerings in the Schedule of Classes for verification of quarter(s) in which courses will be offered.)

Admission Requirements:
- Admission to CSULA.
- Completion of an application to the division and the college.
- A 2.75 grade point average in the last 90 quarter units attempted.
- Credential candidates must attend an orientation meeting prior to admission to the program.
- Two (2) letters of recommendation.
- Official program of study approved by the advisor, division chair, and associate dean.

For further information, contact the program coordinator at (323) 343-4400 or visit the Division of Special Education and Counseling office in King Hall C1064.

(rev. 11/08 Associate Dean’s Office)