

# Change lives for students with autism

## The online master's in autism

The [online Master of Science in Education \(M.S.E.\) in special education with an emphasis in autism](#) prepares educators, families and individual advocates to help produce effective educational interventions and treatments for students with autism. This program provides training in identifying and leveraging evidence-based practices so that graduates may empower autistic learners by focusing on such students' strengths and interests, and by designing personalized instruction that teaches them to improve their communication and behavioral skills and make the most of their personal strengths.

### Program Structure

- 12 courses
- 36 credit hours
- 8 weeks per course
- Complete in as few as 2 years

### Admissions Requirements

- Completed [online application form](#)
- Professional resume or CV
- Completed bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university
- Official transcripts from all colleges or universities attended
- [Letter of introduction](#) stating your area of interest and licensure status
- Two letters of recommendation from professional or academic references
- Application fee: \$65 for U.S. residents, \$85 for international applicants
- IELTS or TOEFL scores (for non-native English-speaking applicants)

### Program Benefits

- Learn from renowned faculty in a department that has set the standard in the practice of special education for over 50 years
- Complete your coursework anytime, anywhere, through our innovative online format
- Practice successful intervention strategies through robust interactive scenarios
- The program offers electives in areas such as Behavior, Leadership, and Secondary/Transition
- No GRE required for admission
- Accredited under NCATE standards through CAEP

**Note:** In order to enroll in this program, a bachelor's degree is required.

# The Curriculum

## Core Courses:

**EPSY 715:** Understanding Research in Education

**SPED 760:** Introduction to Autism

**SPED 785:** Application of Assessment Information for Exceptional Children and Youth

**SPED 790:** Methods for Learners With Higher-Functioning Autism

**SPED 800:** Teaching Language and Communication Skills to Learners With Autism and Developmental Disabilities

**SPED 860:** Education of Children and Youth With Disabilities: Autism

**SPED 854:** Family and Interprofessional Collaboration in Special Education

**SPED 871:** Advanced Practicum With Exceptional Children Needing an Autism Curriculum

**SPED 898:** Master's Project

## Electives:

**SPED 743:** Functional Behavior Assessment, Positive Behavior Support and Classroom Management

**SPED 756:** Special Education Leadership

**SPED 757:** History, Context and Critique of Special Education

**SPED 758:** Appropriate Education and Least Restrictive Environment

**SPED 843:** Advanced Methods and Assessment: Strategies for Students With Social and Emotional Needs

**SPED 856:** Transition Education and Services From Childhood to Adulthood

**SPED 858:** Assessment for Transition Planning

**SPED 861:** Blending Academics and Transition

**Please note:** Electives offered vary by term and are updated, periodically, to reflect changes in the educational environment.

## What You'll Learn

Students in this online master's program will develop a full understanding of autism as well as the most effective methods for educating children and youth with autism. The online master's in autism program includes an intensive field-based practicum as well as a culminating project that demonstrates mastery of program competencies. Upon graduating, students will have fully developed their ability to select, implement, and evaluate evidence-based interventions and support strategies for learners with autism, and they will be expected to demonstrate best methods for applying behavior interventions and teaching social interaction and communications skills.

## Career Outcomes

Graduates of the online master's in autism program are prepared to seek many different careers serving students with autism—for example, they may serve as special educators, autism specialists, or behavior specialists at the local or state level. Outside of education, they may choose to utilize their knowledge by working with Applied Behavior Analysis clinics or pursue work as a therapist in specialty areas, which may include occupational therapists, speech language pathologists or therapists, or art therapists.