MA in Special Education
with Emphasis in Behavior Disorders

Degree Requirements

Coursework and practica in MU’s Behavioral Disorders Program focus on the preparation of high quality teachers for students with behavioral disorders. MU prepares teachers for a variety of delivery settings, including general education classrooms as well as resource and self-contained classes from kindergarten through 12th grade.

The program is grounded in the MOSTEP Quality Indicators, the DESE Cross-Categorical Competencies, the standards of the Council for Exceptional Children, relevant research pertaining to best practice, significant field work and a problems-based approach to content.

The M.A. in Behavioral Disorders emphasizes applied knowledge to prepare special educators to work directly with children and youth across a variety of settings.

A minimum of 30 semester credit hours must be completed in fulfillment of degree requirements.

Applicants are required to meet two sets of minimum qualifications for admission: the requirements of the MA in Special Education program (https://gradstudies.missouri.edu/degreecategory/special-education) and the minimum requirements of the Office of Graduate Studies (http://gradstudies.missouri.edu/admissions/eligibility-process/minimum-requirements.php). Because requirements vary, you must refer to a degree program’s graduate admission page to learn about specific admission criteria, application deadlines, eligibility and application process. Your application materials will be reviewed by both the Office of Graduate Studies and the degree program to which you’ve applied before official admission to the University of Missouri.

1. A completed baccalaureate degree.
2. Graduate grade point average above 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) or higher in the last 60 hours of undergraduate coursework.
3. GRE scores taken within the last five years. For GRE scores taken on or after August 1 2011, they should reflect a preferred combined score of 291 or better on the Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning sections and Analytical Writing score of 3.5 or better.
4. A minimum of two letters of recommendation, which on the whole, clearly reflect professional success and predict academic success at the graduate level.
5. Statement of purpose clearly indicating that the proposed Masters degree is appropriate to the applicant's professional aspirations.
6. For students whose native language is not English, a score of 100 of better on the TOEFL or a grade band score of 7 or better on the IELTS taken within the past two years. Ideally, the TOEFL or IELTS will be taken 6-9 months prior to the term in which the student wishes to start their program. International students who have completed (within the last two years) one year of college-level full-time study in a country where English is the native language may waive the TOEFL requirement if they meet all the conditions.
7. Students may be required to complete an interview with special education faculty.