MEd in Special Education with Emphasis in Cross Categorical, Certification

Degree Requirements

MU's cross-categorical disabilities program is tailored to graduate students who are receiving initial and secondary certification in cross-categorical special education. Upon completion of the degree, graduates are certified to teach students with mild disabilities (i.e., learning disabilities, emotional/behavior disorders, mental retardation) and are certified to teach all grades K-12.

In addition to enrolling in courses to fulfill general certification requirements, students are required to take graduate coursework (30 hours) in the area of cross-categorical disabilities. The coursework represents a broad scope of content including language development, assessment, advanced behavior management, vocational education, collaboration and consultation, literacy instruction, mathematics instruction, research, and trends and issues in special education. In addition to the above requirements, students in the cross-categorical program also need to take a 3-hour characteristics of students with cross-categorical disabilities course and a 4-hour strategies for students with cross-categorical disabilities course.

To enhance the generalization of critical skills and knowledge to the classroom setting, students are also required to take two practica concurrent with the characteristics and methods courses that include field experiences and applications of key concepts. Students are required to have their practica represent the range of grade levels for which they will be responsible. More specifically, if their first practicum was in an elementary setting, then their second will be in a middle school, junior high or high school setting or vice versa.

Admissions

Applicants are required to meet two sets of minimum qualifications for admission: the requirements of the MEd in Special Education program (http://gradstudies.missouri.edu/academics/programs/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.
8. Students must complete all graduate school and program application materials by the deadline posted each term.