A Master's degree with an emphasis in Learning Disabilities may be earned in conjunction with certification to teach in the state of Missouri. Although the state no longer offers certification in the area of learning disabilities, certification in cross-categorical special education can be obtained, along with a Master's degree in Learning Disabilities, through supplemental coursework. Coursework and practica in the LD program focus on the preparation of high quality teachers for students with a range of learning and behavioral needs. Graduates may work in a variety of service delivery settings, including general education classes as well as resource and self-contained classes from kindergarten through 12th grade.

Degree Requirements

A minimum of 30 semester credit hours must be completed in fulfillment of degree requirements. Students are required to complete course work that addresses a broad range of content pertaining to special education in areas such as:

- Language development
- Assessment
- Behavior management
- Collaboration and consultation
- Literacy instruction
- Mathematics instruction
- Research

Students in the learning disabilities emphasis area who are not seeking certification will complete a four-credit-hour field-based practicum in learning disabilities working in conjunction with a faculty supervisor as well as a certified learning disabilities or cross-categorical teacher in the public schools.

Admissions

Applicants are required to meet two sets of minimum qualifications for admission: the requirements of the MEd in Special Education program (https://gradstudies.missouri.edu/degreecategory/special-education) and the minimum requirements of the Graduate School (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 Graduate School 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.