

EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION, MS

The Department of Teaching and Learning offers two options for a program of study at the master's level: a general option or a certification option. Students choosing the General Option enroll in 12 credits of core requirements and 18 credits that reflect a focus area of study. Students following the Certification Option enroll in 12 credits of core requirements and apply 18 credits of their certification credits, taken at the graduate level, to the degree. This program is created in consultation with a faculty advisor. Students choosing the Certification Option must be accepted into one of the Department of Teaching and Learning's Post-Baccalaureate Teacher Certification Programs as well as the Graduate Program. Certification programs include:

- Early Childhood Education (0-8 yrs)
- Primary/Middle and Middle/Secondary Education (grades K-9 or 6-12 in the areas of learning disabilities, cognitive disabilities, and emotional disturbance)

Up to 15 credits of coursework in the certification program may be applied to the Master's degree in addition to 15 credits of core requirements.

Under the auspices of the PhD program in Urban Education, the Department offers doctoral level training with a designated specialization in Exceptional Education.

Admission Requirements

Application Deadlines

Application deadlines vary by program, please review the application deadline chart (<http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/program-deadlines/>) for specific programs. Other important dates and deadlines can be found by using the One Stop calendars (<https://uwm.edu/onestop/dates-and-deadlines/>).

Admission

An applicant must meet Graduate School requirements plus these departmental requirements to be considered for admission to the program:

- Personal interview to determine an applicant's basis for seeking admission, potential for completion of the program, and relevant background and experience in exceptional education.

Credits and Courses

The minimum degree requirement is 30 graduate credits, of which 18 credits must be in Exceptional Education. The remaining credits may be taken either in or outside of the School of Education. Courses in either the Certification Option or General Option are determined in consultation with an advisor from suggested course options identified by the Department.

Program Core Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
EXCEDUC 715	Issues and Trends in Exceptional Education	3
EXCEDUC 770	Seminar: Research on Individuals With Special Needs	3

Advanced Issues or Methods in Urban Special Education (determined in collaboration with a faculty advisor).	3	
EXCEDUC 890	Master's Research Project	3
Total Credits	12	

Certification Option (Up to 15 credits)

A student pursuing the Certification Option must be admitted to the Department of Teaching and Learning's Post-Baccalaureate Teacher Certification Program (consult Undergraduate Bulletin for more information on admission dates and requirements). In consultation with an advisor, a student selects up to 18 credits of coursework required in the certification program for graduate credit. Additionally, the student enrolls in 12 credits of program core requirements. Listed below are the courses in each of the certification programs that can be taken for graduate credit.

Instruction

Middle Childhood/Early Adolescence (MCEA)

Code	Title	Credits
EXCEDUC 532	Assessment and Monitoring	3
EXCEDUC 574	Curriculum Accommodations II: Primary/Middle	3
EXCEDUC 588	Teaching Experience III	3
EXCEDUC 601	Behavioral Supports	3
EXCEDUC 662	Collaborative Strategies	3
EXCEDUC 605	Child, Learner, Disabilities	3
EXCEDUC 681	Literacy II	3

Deaf/Hard of Hearing (DHH)

Code	Title	Credits
EXCEDUC 533	Assessment/Monitoring : Deaf & Hard of Hearing	1
EXCEDUC 562	Hearing Science	3
EXCEDUC 563	Speechreading/Auditory Rehabilitation	3
EXCEDUC 564	Communication Methods Practicum	3
EXCEDUC 565	Techniques of Teaching School Subjects to Individuals w/Hearing Impairments II	3
EXCEDUC 587	Teaching Experience II	3
EXCEDUC 588	Teaching Experience III	3
EXCEDUC 605	Child, Learner, Disabilities	3
EXCEDUC 671	Behavior Support & Intervention for Mid/High Students with Disabilities	3

Early Adolescence/Adolescence (EAA)

Code	Title	Credits
CURRINS 545	Reading in the Content Areas: Middle, Junior, and Senior High School	3
EXCEDUC 532	Assessment and Monitoring	3
EXCEDUC 576	Curriculum Accommodations III: Functional for Middle to High Students	3
EXCEDUC 605	Child, Learner, Disabilities	3
EXCEDUC 635	Individualized Planning & Instructional Methods	2
EXCEDUC 636	Curriculum Accommodations	2
EXCEDUC 662	Collaborative Strategies	3
EXCEDUC 681	Literacy II	3

Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)

Code	Title	Credits
EXCEDUC 568	Curriculum and Methods for Special Education: Birth to Three	3
EXCEDUC 569	Curriculum and Methods for Special Education: Preschool	3
EXCEDUC 570	Curriculum and Methods for Special Education: Primary	3
EXCEDUC 586	Teaching Experience I	3
EXCEDUC/CURRINS 612	Collaborations for Teachers with Families, Schools, and Communities	3
EXCEDUC/ED PSY 613	Infant and Early Childhood Assessment	3
EXCEDUC 647	Early Childhood Special Education Field Experience: 0 to 3 Yrs	3
EXCEDUC 648	Early Childhood Special Education Field Experience: Preschool	3
EXCEDUC 649	Early Childhood Special Education Field Experience: Primary	3
EXCEDUC 682	Language and Literacy in Early Childhood Special Education	3
EXCEDUC 776	Fieldwork with Students Having Early Childhood-Exceptional Education Needs	3

Administration and Supervision

In cooperation with Administrative Leadership

Code	Title	Credits
AD LDSP 780	Internship in Student Service Administration	3
AD LDSP 805	Legislative and Legal Aspects of Special Education	3
EXCEDUC 579	Current Topics in Exceptional Education:	1-3
EXCEDUC 960	Seminar: Administration/Supervision of Programs for Exceptional Individuals	3

Total Credits **10-12**

General Option (15 credits)

The general option for a Master's program in Exceptional Education is developed by identifying a theme of study that is based upon the student's educational background, areas of professional interest, and professional development goals. A theme, for example, may focus on assessment, instruction, policy, or other relevant issues in the area of special education. Courses are selected in consultation with a faculty advisor.

Additional Requirements**Major Professor as Advisor**

The student must have a major professor to advise and supervise the student's studies as specified in Graduate School regulations.

Thesis

A thesis or master's project is required for all students in the certification and general options. All students are required to present the results of their thesis or project at a seminar session in the semester in which they complete their degree.

Time Limit

The student must complete all degree requirements within five years of initial enrollment.

Doctor of Philosophy in Urban Education Specialization in Exceptional Education

Under the auspices of the doctoral program in Urban Education, the Department of Teaching and Learning provides doctoral training with a specialization in Exceptional Education. The program emphasizes the study of the socio-cultural context, educational policy, research-based practices, and systems change and reform to support learning and development of individuals with disabilities. Prospective doctoral students wishing to specialize in Exceptional Education must first be admitted to the Urban Education Doctoral Program. Admission and general program requirements can be obtained from the Director of Doctoral Studies in Urban Education. This program is described in detail on the Urban Education (<http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/urban-education/>) program page.

Accelerated Program Option

This program is offered as part of an accelerated graduate program. For more information, see Accelerated Graduate Degrees (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/opportunities-resources/accelerated-graduate-degrees/>).