



SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP AND EDUCATION SCIENCES

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Special Education Program: Mild / Moderate Disabilities



SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP AND EDUCATION SCIENCES

Contact Information

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www.sandiego.edu/soles/prospective



SLE-10-1497



Special Education Program: Mild / Moderate Disabilities



Program Overview

The Special Education Program offers a master's degree as well as the new Preliminary Education Specialist Credential with Mild/Moderate authorization.

Evening courses are offered to accommodate working students. Courses are scheduled across a fall, intersession, spring and summer format.

Individuals who previously completed approved required credential or graduate studies courses work with an adviser to create an individually designed 30-unit master's degree plan. An individually designed program can include Level II Education Specialist Credential or courses in another area of specialization.

The combination of theory and practical experience provides graduates with a solid understanding, knowledge and skill set to function as a highly effective special educator. Candidate competency is evaluated through a self-reflective and performance-based electronic portfolio. Portfolios are reviewed at the midpoint and end of degree and/or credential coursework. The special education graduate credentials and degree are nationally recognized by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and the Council for Exceptional Children.

Distinguishing Features

The School of Leadership and Education Sciences (SOLES) endeavors to prepare students for leadership roles in teaching, counseling and administrative capacities. All our academic programs are grounded in a theoretical framework that incorporates teaching, coursework and research in each discipline.

The University of San Diego's Special Education Program is renowned throughout California, and its graduates are sought by school districts statewide. Important features of the program include:

- Experienced faculty members who enhance the breadth and depth of expertise a graduate student develops
- Individualized and personalized academic advising for all students
- Small class sizes, which offer students exposure to evidence-based strategies
- Curriculum designed to address the education of individuals with special needs in inclusive settings
- Collaborative and co-teaching bonds with general educators matched by an opportunity to practice building partnership with parents
- The SOLES building, which incorporates technological advances and space to invite a community of learners to partner with faculty and students in a diversely woven setting

Program Curriculum

The SOLES faculty enrich all programs and course offerings with the values, concepts and themes that will help students become ethical, civic-minded and committed leaders in their chosen fields. The following is a list of the program curricula for those seeking a credential or master's degree. A minimum of 30 graduate units is required for a master's degree.

Foundations Block

EDUC 558XB	First and Second Language Development for the Classroom Teacher	3 CEU units
EDSP 589	Healthy Environments and Inclusive Education	3 units
EDSP 574	Global Perspectives and Foundations in Special Education	3 units
EDSP 573	Diverse Family Systems and Transitions	3 units
EDSP 579	Legal, Ethical, and Professional Practices in a Diverse Society	3 units
EDUC 500	Research Design and Methodology	3 units

Methods Block

EDSP 571	Management Behavior and Instruction	3 units
EDUC 575P	Elementary Curriculum Methods for Special Educators	3 units
EDUC 583P	Methods of Teaching Reading and Language Arts	3 units
EDUC 584C	Methods of Teaching English Language and Academic Development	3 units
EDSP 570	Assessment Identification to Transition in Special Education	3 units
EDSP 572	Language Variance and Assistive Technology	3 units
EDSP 575P	Evidence Based Inclusive Practices Mild/Moderate Disabilities	3 units

Student Teaching Block

EDSP 590P	Student Teaching Mild/Moderate Disabilities	6 units
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Admission Requirements

While applicants are evaluated based on a holistic method, the successful candidate for the program will demonstrate his or her candidacy in the following manner:

- Completed USD application, which can be submitted online at www.sandiego.edu/admissions/graduate/applications.php
- College or university transcripts. Applicants must submit one official sealed transcript from every college or university attended. It is highly recommended that applicants order an additional set of official transcripts.
- Three professional letters of recommendation from a current supervisor or a

professor attesting to both academic and personal skills and, if possible, to teaching abilities

- Statement of purpose explaining reasons for seeking the credential and including information on an applicant's experience in working with children or adolescents in school or non-school settings
- Resume
- An undergraduate liberal studies concentration is recommended, but not required. All applicants must pass the California Subject Examinations for Teachers (CSET) prior to student teaching.
- A minimum grade point average of 2.75 (on a 4.0) scale) in all undergraduate coursework
- Passing score on the California Basic Educational Skills test (CBEST) or photocopy of reservation confirmation to take CBEST on next available date

Application deadlines vary by semester and students should visit www.sandiego.edu/soles/prospective for the most current deadlines.

Financial Aid

Students may be eligible to apply for additional scholarships and financial aid through SOLES. To learn more about the opportunities available, please visit www.sandiego.edu/soles/financialaid.

