The University of Kansas
Department of Special Education

Choose us

Ranked #1 graduate special education program in the country.

Learn and work with internationally recognized scholars, researchers, and teachers.

Application process

Apply online:
www.graduate.ku.edu
- Set up your account.
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Application deadlines

March 1st  Summer Semester
November 1st  Spring Semester
June 1st  Fall Semester

For more information:
Admissions and Recruitment
specialeduadm@ku.edu
785-864-4954

Support all students with disabilities and their families.

Autism Spectrum Disorders
Early Childhood Unified
High Incidence Disabilities
Low Incidence Disabilities
Secondary & Transition Services
GRADUATE DEGREE and SPECIAL EDUCATION ENDORSEMENT
The department’s graduate degree and special education endorsement programs prepare educators at various stages in their professional careers. We offer programs designed to meet the needs of beginning and advanced special educators, including building principals, district-level leaders, teacher educators, and researchers.

We offer two main tracks across the graduate program:
- Special Education Teacher Endorsements
- Master of Science Degree Programs

Incorporated throughout each of the programs are the following:
- Critical issues and practices including collaborative and inclusive education
- Intensive academic behavioral support strategies
- Family & interprofessional collaboration
- Literacy, content enhancement, and learning strategies
- Field-based practicum in a variety of school and clinical sites
- Instructional technology and online learning

HIGH INCIDENCE DISABILITIES
- Meet the educational needs of students with learning and/or behavioral needs
- Design access to general education curriculum as well as address students’ unique learning and support needs
- Use intensive academic and behavioral strategies
- Work as co-teachers and consultants to help classroom teachers adapt content and conditions for diverse and struggling learners.

Professors: Dr. Suzanne Robinson, Dr. Sean Smith, Dr. Earle Knowlton, Dr. James Basham, Dr. Kathleen Lane, Dr. Richard Simpson
Location: Edwards Campus

LOW INCIDENCE DISABILITIES
- Meeting the educational needs of students with significant intellectual disabilities and students with multiple disabilities, including students on the autism spectrum with concurrent cognitive, sensory, and physical impairments.
- Strategies addressing the unique learning and support needs of students with significant needs.
- Strategies to promote access to the general curriculum for students with significant needs.
- Strategies for providing life skills and community-based instruction for students with significant needs.

Professors: Dr. Mary Morningstar, Dr. Wayne Sailor, Dr. Mike Wehmeyer, Dr. Earle Knowlton
Location: Lawrence and Edwards Campus

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER
- Addresses the complex needs of students with ASD, Asperger syndrome, and other pervasive developmental disorders
- Focuses on characteristics, assessments, and curriculum
- Strategies for social, communication, and behavior interventions
- Intensive academic and behavioral support strategies
- Emphasizes sensory and motor issues

Autism Program Director: Dr. Richard Simpson
Location: Edwards Campus

EARLY CHILDHOOD UNIFIED
- Prepares professionals to meet the learning and developmental needs of all infants, toddlers, preschool and kindergarten-age children, including those at-risk for and with disabilities.
- Addresses interdisciplinary approaches that integrate developmentally appropriate educational and early intervention strategies into holistic and functional activities for young children and their families in naturalistic settings.
- Emphasizes collaborative and team-based processes that empower families and program staff to work together to support the development of all young children.

Professors: Dr. Eva Horn, Dr. Barbara Thompson, Dr. Greg Cheatham
Location: Edwards Campus