



California State University, Long Beach
College of Education, Graduate Studies
ced-gradstudies@csulb.edu

INFORMATION AND APPLICATION PACKET

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

Website: www.csulb.edu/college-of-education/master-of-science-special-education

Contact Dr. Nat Hansuvadha with inquiries about program:
Nat.Hansuvadha@csulb.edu

Contact the College of Education Graduate Studies Office with inquiries about the applications:
ced-gradstudies@csulb.edu

Video conferencing is available, email ced-gradstudies@csulb.edu
to set up an appointment Monday – Friday 9AM-5PM

APPLICATION DEADLINES

APPLICANT	FALL 2020
DOMESTIC	6/01/2020
INTERNATIONAL	4/01/2020

BOTH THE UNIVERSITY AND PROGRAM APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE DEADLINE

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Is the GRE required?

A. The GRE is not required for this program. For a list of eligibility requirements, please see page 5. For a list of items required to be submitted with the program application, please see checklist on page 8.

Q. Does this program have prerequisite courses?

A. Please see the [CSULB Catalog](#) for information about prerequisites. Prerequisite courses do not need to be completed prior to applying nor prior to being admitted. Prerequisite course completion does not impact an applicant's eligibility for admission to the program. Prerequisite courses may be completed the summer or winter session prior to admission or during the first year in the program at the discretion of the advisor.

Q. Does this program combine a Master's Degree with a preliminary teaching credential?

A. No. CSULB does not offer a combined teaching credential and master's degree. If you are interested in earning the credential to teach Special Education, please visit the [program website](#).

Q. How long does the program take to complete?

A. The program may be completed in 2 years. The program coordinator will provide admitted students an individual program plan.

Q. How much will the program cost?

A. This program requires 30 total units. CSULB registration fees are prorated at 6 units or less or 7 units or more. Most students enroll in 2 courses (6 units) each Fall and Spring semester. Please refer to [Tuition and Fees website](#) for a complete breakdown for "Graduate" fees. Summer enrollment is optional; please note there is limited availability of summer courses. Please refer to the [College of Professional and International Education website](#) for a breakdown of summer fees.

Q. Where do I send transcripts?

A. Send all official transcripts to CSULB Enrollment Services, not the College of Education Graduate Studies Office. Please see page 6 of this packet for additional information. Do not send your transcripts to the College of Education Graduate Studies Office.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

CSULB College of Education offers a Master of Science in Special Education. Please note that CSULB does not offer a combined initial credential and master's degree. If you are interested in earning the initial credential to teach Special Education, please visit the [program website](#) for information about the Education Specialist Preliminary Credential.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Master of Science in Special Education degree program is an advanced academic program that develops advanced knowledge and skills in current research in special education and promotes reflective inquiry in special education practice. Candidates receive multiple opportunities to develop critical thinking and writing skills through coursework and the culminating capstone experience (either a comprehensive exam or a thesis). While an Education Specialist credential is not an eligibility requirement for the Master's degree in Special Education, core courses in the program are at a graduate level and build on preliminary special education credential coursework. Candidates who have not had this coursework will work with the program advisor in developing their program plan. At the same time, we acknowledge and value the diverse work and lived experiences as well as relevant coursework from other disciplines. Therefore, candidates with experience working with populations with disabilities who are not educators (ABA therapists, for example) are encouraged to apply. See specific course requirements below.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION MISSION STATEMENT

The College of Education at CSULB is a learning and teaching community that prepares professional educators and practitioners who promote equity and excellence in diverse urban settings through effective pedagogy, evidence-based practices, collaboration, leadership, innovation, scholarship, and advocacy.

PROGRAM GOALS

1. To provide candidates with the skills necessary for program review and development, and research analysis and utilization that will benefit individuals with disabilities and their families. Consistent with the CED mission, our goal is to nurture life-long learners who engage in program development and evaluation reflective of best practices in special education as documented in the current research base.
2. To expand the scope and depth of the candidate's understanding about and experience with individuals with disabilities and the system of special education which serves them. The majority of our candidates already have general education and/or specialist credentials for teaching school age children. Candidates need to understand the demands that individuals with disabilities encounter prior to formal education and in their adult years as well as consideration of the life-span adjustments (K-12 and adults through age 22) of individuals with disabilities. Our candidates also need to understand a greater number of service delivery models and emerging research and practice that supports the knowledge base in special education. We build upon the understanding our candidates gained in their credential programs and professional experiences by continuing to emphasize our program themes: Individualized Education, Collaboration, Cultural Responsiveness, Evidence-based Practices, and Advocacy & Leadership.
3. To increase the candidate's awareness and understanding of the multiple roles through which professionals meet the needs and interests of individuals with disabilities and their families. Our candidates are competent and caring teachers and service providers, who are partners with parents and others in the development of high quality intervention programs for individuals with disabilities. The degree program prepares candidates to look beyond their current positions as teachers and practitioners and to consider leadership roles in education, policymaking, and service delivery.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SPECIAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Effectively apply theory to practice
- Analyze data to guide instructional decision-making
- Determine effective behavioral, emotional, and environmental supports for student learning
- Effectively plan for transition
- Effectively collaborate and consult with teachers, parents, and other school professionals
- Demonstrate leadership skills in systems change efforts
- Analyze and synthesize research in special education through written and verbal communication

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Admitted students will complete a program planner with the program coordinator regarding appropriate course selection. It is important that candidates take courses in the advised sequence. Candidates will therefore need to be available to take courses at the day, time, and semester they are offered.

Core EDSP courses are typically offered on weeknights beginning at 4:00PM or 7:00PM, subject to change.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SPECIAL EDUCATION PREREQUISITES

- Prerequisite courses do not need to be completed prior to applying nor prior to being admitted. Prerequisite course completion does not impact an applicant's eligibility for admission to the program.
- Prerequisite courses may be completed the summer session prior to admission or during the first year in the program at the discretion of the advisor.
- Please see the [CSULB Catalog](#) for additional detailed information about prerequisites.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- The program consists of a minimum of 30 units of upper division and graduate courses.
- A program planner will be provided to each student upon admission.
- The program is designed to be completed in 2 years.
- Each Fall and Spring semester, students typically enroll in 2 courses (6 units). Summer enrollment is optional; there is limited availability of summer courses.
- Please see the [CSULB Catalog](#) for additional detailed information about course requirements.

APPLICATION PROCESS

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

The following are required for admission to the program:

- Minimum 2.85 overall grade point average in last degree (not credential or certificate) earned from an accredited institution of higher education. Applicants whose overall GPA is less than 2.85 but meet the University minimum GPA requirement (2.50 for a completed baccalaureate degree or 2.70 for a baccalaureate degree in progress) and who present compelling evidence of academic and professional potential either through recent academic performance and/or experiential background, may be considered for admission at the discretion of the program admission committee.
- Special education teaching credential or equivalent experience
- Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university, to include 24 upper-division units in 4 areas of study. Please see [CSULB Catalog](#).
- International applicants have additional university application requirements including meeting the English language proficiency requirement. Please visit The Center for International Education (CIE) website at www.csulb.edu/cie for more information.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Graduate applicants must apply to the university AND to a specific graduate program simultaneously by the deadline listed on the first page of this packet. Admissions decisions are made at the program level by the faculty. It is essential to follow the guidelines for applying to both the university and program. Failure to do so, and to do so in a timely manner, may result in not being considered for program and/or university admission. If you have questions, please contact the College of Education Graduate Studies Office at ced-gradstudies@csulb.edu. Video conferencing is also available Monday – Friday 9AM-5PM, please email us to set up an appointment.

Admission cannot be deferred. Admitted students who do not attend the term they are admitted will need to re-apply to both the university and the program for a future term.

UNIVERSITY APPLICATION PROCEDURES

You must submit a Graduate/Post-Baccalaureate Admissions Application online at [Cal State Apply](#) accompanied by the \$70 nonrefundable application fee by the program application deadline.

The Graduate Studies Office has created a [tutorial](#) with tips for submitting the university application on Cal State Apply. For technical assistance with the university application, please contact the Cal State Apply Help Desk: (857) 304-2087 or CalStateApply@liaisoncas.com

Once the university application has been submitted, applicants can track their university application in the Applicant Self Service portal, found at: <http://www.csulb.edu/admissions/applicant-self-service>.

TRANSCRIPTS

You must submit 1 set of official transcripts for ALL colleges and universities attended to Enrollment Services. This includes all community college(s) attended, bachelor's degree(s) coursework, and all post-baccalaureate or extension coursework.

Note that if you received your bachelor's degree from CSULB and have not attended any other university or college since, you will most likely not need to provide transcripts. You will be notified by Enrollment Services if a transcript is needed.

Submit official transcripts to Enrollment Services either (1) electronically or (2) mail.

(1) Official transcripts may be submitted electronically directly from a U.S. college or university to ES-IDPTrans@csulb.edu.

(2) Official transcripts may be delivered in a sealed envelope to the address below:

Enrollment Services/Admissions
California State University, Long Beach
1250 Bellflower Blvd.
Long Beach, CA 90840

You are not required to submit transcripts to the College of Education Graduate Studies Office. It is critical that you submit your university application and the transcripts prior to the program application deadline. This will allow the College of Education faculty and staff access to your transcripts as part of the review of your program application.

PROGRAM APPLICATION PROCEDURES

The program application may be found on pages 8-12 in this packet. All program application materials must be received by the application deadline; please see the first page of this packet for the deadline.

Submit program application materials to the Graduate Studies Office electronically via email to:

ced-gradstudies@csulb.edu.

Program application materials can be found on pages 8-12 of this packet. Please submit via email to

ced-gradstudies@csulb.edu

The College of Education Graduate Studies Office will send you an email once we have processed your application. Please note that this may take several days.

INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

We encourage international applicants to consider our graduate degree. International applicants planning to attend on a J1 or F1 VISA have additional requirements for admission, and can find admission information at the [Center for International Education](#) website. Please note that some programs have earlier deadlines for international (F1 or J1 VISA) applicants. Please verify all deadline dates in the application packet on the [Program Deadlines and Application Packets page](#).

APPLICATION PROCESS – TWO STEPS

1. STEP ONE: Apply to the university

- a. Complete the university application through Cal State Apply www.calstate.edu/apply
- b. See this checklist from the Center for International Education for all items required www.cpie.csulb.edu/International/about.aspx?plD=6

2. STEP TWO: Apply to the program (see above)

The program application may be found on pages 8-12 in this packet. All program application materials must be received by the application deadline; please see the first page of this packet for the deadline.

Submit program application materials to the Graduate Studies Office electronically via email to:

ced-gradstudies@csulb.edu.

Program application materials can be found on pages 8-12 of this packet. Please submit via email to

ced-gradstudies@csulb.edu

The College of Education Graduate Studies Office will send you an email once we have processed your application. Please note that this may take several days.

ADMISSION PROCESS

PHASE 1: PROGRAM APPLICATION PAPER REVIEW

Submit the university application (via CalState Apply) and all of the items listed on the program application (see pages 8 & 9 of this packet). You will be notified by email regarding the status of your application. The program coordinator may contact you with questions about your application.

PHASE 2: INTERVIEW

All eligible candidates who successfully complete Phase 1 of the application process will be invited for a group interview with the Special Education Admissions Committee. Interview day will take place on Monday, June 15th, 2020. Since this date has been provided in advance, it is expected applicants will save-the-date and plan ahead to attend the interview. After the interview, candidates will receive email notification as to whether or not they will be invited for admission.

PHASE 3: ORIENTATION

Candidates offered admission will be invited to a mandatory orientation meeting. During orientation, each student will receive an Individualized Induction Plan and/or Master's program planner, and each student will be advised as to the appropriate sequence of classes. It is important that students follow the advised sequence of classes as course offerings are limited in the Master's program. Many required courses are offered only one semester each year.



APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

Master of Science in Special Education
College of Education
California State University, Long Beach

The information on pages 8-9 of this packet may be typed or hand-written.

SEMESTER:

YEAR:

PROGRAM APPLICATION CHECKLIST

You must provide all of the items listed below. Please do not submit pages 1-7 of this packet.

- ☐ Application for Admission (pages 8 & 9 of this packet)
- ☐ Résumé
- ☐ Personal Statement (guidelines on page 10 of this packet)
- ☐ Two completed recommendation forms and narrative letters (pages 11 & 12 of this packet)
- ☐ Copy of teaching credential, if held

PERSONAL INFORMATION

First Name:

Last Name:

MI:

Other Names, if applicable (for example, maiden name):

Preferred Phone:

Alternate Phone:

Email Address:

Languages Spoken Other Than English (optional):

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

College/University

Program/Major

Dates Attended

GPA

Degree Earned



ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

CREDENTIALS HELD, IF ANY

Credential	Issuing Agency	Date granted	Expiration date

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

Employer	Location	Position	Full/Part Time	Dates

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Agency / Organization	Location	Nature of Experience	Hours per week	Dates

Applicants will receive an email notification once their application has been processed.

My signature below certifies that I have read the program information and I am familiar with the program's goals, mission, requirements, and procedures as posted.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____



PERSONAL STATEMENT

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College of Education
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Please respond to the prompt below in 3-4 pages typewritten, double-spaced with 12-point font. This is a presentation of you as a prospective professional, thus a clear and comprehensive written sample is essential.

Describe your educational background along with your interests and special skills. Describe how your past experiences with family, friends, education, work, or any other experiences have influenced your decision to enter the field of special education. Explain why you are seeking a master's degree in special education at CSULB and what you hope to accomplish upon completion.

ASSESSMENT OF APPLICANT'S COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Based on my knowledge of this applicant (Check one):

- ☐ I think this applicant has exceptional written communication skills.
- ☐ I think this applicant has adequate written communication skills.
- ☐ I think this applicant has difficulty with written communication skills.

Based on my knowledge of this applicant (Check one):

- ☐ I think this applicant has exceptional oral communication skills.
- ☐ I think this applicant has adequate oral communication skills.
- ☐ I think this applicant has difficulty with oral communication skills.

ASSESSMENT OF APPLICANT'S POTENTIAL FOR SUCCESS IN GRADUATE SCHOOL

Based on my knowledge of this applicant (Check one):

- ☐ I think this applicant will be successful, efficient, and independent in graduate school.
- ☐ I think this applicant will be able to complete graduate school with support, and at an average or slow pace.
- ☐ I think this applicant will struggle academically in graduate school.

Based on my knowledge of this applicant (Check one):

- ☐ I think this applicant will develop into an excellent practitioner.
- ☐ I think this applicant will become an adequate practitioner given a reasonable amount of supervision.
- ☐ I think this applicant will have difficulty with some aspects of practical work.
- ☐ I have no basis to judge this applicant's suitability for practical work.

Based on my knowledge of this applicant (Check one):

- ☐ I think this applicant has exceptional qualities and will demonstrate leadership and enthusiasm.
- ☐ I think this applicant will be a capable participant in graduate school.
- ☐ I think this applicant may have difficulties as a graduate student.

LETTER

PLEASE ATTACH A LETTER MAKING SPECIFIC COMMENTS ABOUT THIS APPLICANT. We are especially interested in the applicant's strengths and challenges with regard to potential for graduate study and future success as a professional. These comments are weighed very heavily by our admissions committee. When you have completed this form and letter of recommendation, please email the form and letter electronically to the College of Education Graduate Studies Office at ced-gradstudies@csulb.edu by the application deadline (June 1, 2020).

Recommender Signature: _____ Date: _____

We thank you for taking the time to complete this Recommendation Form and Letter.

CSULB Master of Science in Special Education
Information and Application Packet for Fall 2020