**Special Education: Birth-Grade 8**

**Master of Education**

**College of Education**

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**Program Description**

This program is designed to be a fifth-year of study beyond the undergraduate preparation in special education or in a general education area. It provides for a continuation of studies initiated during undergraduate preparation, and permits students to develop state-of-the-art competencies in the field of special education. General education teachers with certification in elementary/early childhood or a core area in secondary are also eligible for this program.

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**Birth to Grade 8 Online (36 credits)**

**Foundations of Special Education (15 credits):**
- SPED 601: Advanced Studies in Learning Disabilities
- SPED 611: Special Education Law
- SPED 628: Developmental Disabilities
- SPED 640: Advanced Study of Autism Spectrum Disorders
- SPED 644: Advanced Study of Emotional Spectrum Disorders & Behavioral Disorders

**Research (3 credits):**
- SPED 617: Current Research in Special Education

**Courses in Special Education (15 credits):**
- SPED 607: Positive Classroom Interventions
- SPED 618: Developing Integrated Language and Literacy Programs for Students with Disabilities
- SPED 625: Instructional Strategies for Learning and Behavioral Problems
- SPED 645: Early Intervention for Young Learners with Special Needs
- SPED 646: Assessment and Evaluation

**Practicum (3 credits):**
- SPED 648: Clinical Practicum in Special Education

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**Admissions Requirements**

All applicants must submit the following materials along with the completed application form and non-refundable application fee:

1. A final official transcript sent directly from the institution that conferred the applicant's undergraduate degree as well as official transcripts from any other undergraduate or graduate coursework completed.
2. A copy of your teaching certificate, a Pennsylvania certificate is not required.
3. Resume
4. Recommendation forms: one academic reference from a former or current college or university faculty member with knowledge of the applicant's academic abilities and one professional reference from a school administrator, teacher, or supervisor with knowledge of the applicant's professional attributes.

Recommendations must be on the appropriate forms, which are available electronically at [www.sru.edu/graduate](http://www.sru.edu/graduate), under "Forms".

Unconditional admission may be offered to applicants who submit acceptable credentials as listed above, and who have earned an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher (based on a 4.0 scale). Applicants who do not meet all of the above criteria may be offered conditional admission upon recommendation of the graduate coordinator and approval by the Director of Graduate Admissions. Applicants should have their final official transcripts forwarded directly to the Office of Graduate Admissions.

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**Program Highlights**

SRU's Master Teacher Program in Special Education offers:
- An exclusively online program ideal for the working professional
- World class faculty considered to be the leaders in Special Education in Pennsylvania
- A program curriculum grounded in theory and research supported by a practical hands-on approach
- Pennsylvania Department of Education approved and aligned with the standards from the Council of Exceptional Children
- An ability to complete the program in one calendar year
### Foundations of Special Education (15 credits):
- SPED 601: Advanced Studies in Learning Disabilities
- SPED 611: Special Education Law
- SPED 628: Developmental Disabilities
- SPED 640: Advanced Studies of Autism Spectrum Disorders
- SPED 644: Advanced Study of Emotional Spectrum Disorders & Behavioral Disorders

### Research (3 credits):
- SPED 617: Current Research in Special Education

### Courses in Special Education (15 credits):
- SPED 607: Positive Classroom Interventions
- SPED 618: Developing Integrated Language and Literacy Programs for Students with Disabilities
- SPED 625: Instructional Strategies for Learning and Behavioral Problems
- SPED 646: Assessment and Evaluation
- SPED 647: Transition for Persons with Disabilities

### Practicum (3 credits):
- SPED 648: Clinical Practicum in Special Education

### Clearances
Clearances are due no later than one (1) week prior to deadline for course registration for each program's practicum/field experience. No student will be permitted to register for their program's practicum and take part in practicum/field experiences without clearances on file at SRU.

Students are to send the following by the due date:

- Clear Act 34 Criminal History Record NO record...NONE concerning prohibitive offenses. A meeting headed by the Dean of the College of Education is required if clearances show non-prohibitive offenses. Clearance must be less than one year old at the time of submission.
- Clear Act 114 FBI Record Check NO record...NONE concerning prohibitive offenses. A meeting headed by the Dean of the College of Education is required if clearances show non-prohibitive offenses. Clearance must be less than one year old at the time of submission.
- Clear Act 151 Child Abuse Background Check NO record...NONE concerning prohibitive offenses. A meeting headed by the Dean of the College of Education is required if clearances show non-prohibitive offenses. Clearance must be less than one year old at the time of submission.
- Act 24 Arrest/Conviction Report and Certification NO record...NONE concerning prohibitive offenses. A meeting headed by the Dean of the College of Education is required if clearances show non-prohibitive offenses. Students must file an updated Act 24 with SRU if any additional arrests convictions occur while enrolled at SRU.

### Admissions Requirements
All applicants must submit the following materials along with the completed application form and non-refundable application fee:

1. A final official transcript sent directly from the institution that conferred the applicant's undergraduate degree as well as official transcripts from any other undergraduate or graduate coursework completed.
2. A copy of your teaching certificate, a Pennsylvania certificate is not required.
3. Resume
4. Recommendation forms: one academic reference from a former or current college or university faculty member with knowledge of the applicant's academic abilities and one professional reference from a school administrator, teacher, or supervisor with knowledge of the applicant's professional attributes.

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### Tuition and Assistantships
Information on current tuition and assistantships can be found on the main Graduate Admissions website at www.sru.edu/graduate. Financial Aid brochures are available through the Financial Aid Office www.sru.edu/FinAid or the Office of Graduate Admissions.

*The educational policies and procedures are continually being reviewed and changed in keeping with the mission of the university. Consequently, this document cannot be considered binding and it is intended to be used as only an informational guide. Students are responsible for being informed of official policies and regulations for meeting all appropriate requirements.*