

# EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION

Degrees: Master of Arts  
 Division: Teacher Education  
 Building 85, Room 125  
 (850) 474-2893  
<http://uwf.edu/education/dted@uwf.edu>  
 College: Professional Studies

The division offers two specializations in Exceptional Student Education: Comprehensive and Exceptional Student Education/ESOL (K-12). There is a critical shortage of certified teachers, administrators, related professionals, and specialists in many areas of exceptional student education.

Exceptional Student Education continues to be a critical shortage area and teacher education students may be eligible for the Critical Teacher Shortage Loan Forgiveness Program and/or the Critical Teacher Shortage Tuition Reimbursement Program.

In addition to general University requirements, students seeking the M.A. in Exceptional Student Education must meet the requirements listed below.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

In addition to meeting the minimum University standards for admission to graduate studies, students should contact the Office of Teacher Education for information on admission to professional graduate education programs.

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## EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION COMPREHENSIVE

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The comprehensive Master's degree program in Exceptional Student Education is an NCATE accredited program. Students may use the course work completed, however, to apply for initial teacher certification. This program is designed to develop master teachers who will be prepared for the instructional and leadership roles in special education.

Use of workshop credit: No more than 6 semester hours of credit in workshop courses may be applied toward the Master's degree.

Students in this Master's degree program have 21 semester hours of required core courses as shown below. It should be noted that students will select a Faculty Mentor before completing EDG 5366. This Faculty Mentor will provide career advice, provide advice about the selection of elective courses related to the student's area of interest, and provide directions and advisement to the student concerning professional issues.

Students must also complete a Cognate program of study of at least 15 semester hours. The Cognate Area options are:

A. For those teachers who are currently employed and are in an Alternative Certification Program approved by their school district, the Cognate Area will consist

of 15 semester hours of course work that is approved by the student's school district and is designed to meet the requirements for Alternative Certification. Additionally, students will be required to take a one semester hour elective course.

- B. For those teachers who are entering with initial teacher certification, the Cognate Area will consist of a program of study developed collaboratively between the student and the Faculty Mentor and approved by the Chair of the Division of Teacher Education. Course work may be designed to allow for additional certification or to develop a depth or breadth of knowledge in an area of inquiry.
- C. For those students who do not possess teacher certification, the Cognate Area will consist of the same 15 semester hours of course work required of those students in the Alternative Certification program. Additionally, students will develop with their Faculty Mentor an experiential course component consisting of practica and possibly additional course work designed to provide the professional and instructional skills necessary to become an effective teacher.

Before graduating, students will be required to complete an action research project in cooperation with a Faculty Mentor.

### **Required Core Course (3 sh)**

EDF 6691 Issues in Education:  
 A Bio-Psycho-Social Understanding..... 3

### **Divisional Core Courses (9 sh)**

EEX 5085 Integrating Curriculum and Instruction..... 3  
 EEX 6051 Exceptionalities..... 3  
 EEX 6222 Practical Applications and Issues in Assessment and Classroom Management: Special Education..... 3

### **Educational Investigative Sequence (9 sh)**

EDG 5366 Investigative Strategies & Empirical Foundations in Learning & Development..... 3  
 (a Faculty Mentor must be selected before completing EDG 5366)  
 EEX 6340 Action Research ..... 3  
 EEX 6945 Research Practicum in Special Education.... 3

### **Cognate Courses (15 sh minimum)**

Course Plan must be approved by Faculty Mentor & Chair before initiating Cognate Courses. Selected courses will be an elective cognate for potential cohort groups and alternative certification students.

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## EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT/ESOL CERTIFICATION

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This is an NCATE/Florida Department of Education accredited program in Exceptional Student/ESOL leading to Florida Certification in Exceptional Student Education. It is designed to prepare teachers and support personnel responsible for services to exceptional children and youth. The course work and field experiences provide the student with a foundation of exceptional student education, standardized and alternative methods of assessment, integrated curriculum and instruction, management of individual and group behavior, instructional technology,

home/school/community collaboration, and applied research.

Graduates are eligible for certification in the State of Florida to work in public school special education classes for ESE Students (K-12), private schools for children with exceptional student education needs, mental health centers, public correction facilities, and rehabilitation centers such as Florida HRS and Eckerd Camps. Graduates are also eligible for certification in 27 other states that have interstate agreements with the State of Florida. Students in the ESE program must pass the General Knowledge, Professional Education, Exceptional Student Education, and Elementary Education portions of the Florida Teacher Certification Exam (FTCE).

### **Required Core Course (3 sh)**

EDF 6691 Issues in Teacher Education:  
A Bio-Psycho-Social Understanding..... 3

### **Divisional Core Courses (9 sh)**

EEX 5085 Integrating Curriculum & Instruction ..... 3  
EEX 6051 Exceptionalities ..... 3  
EEX 6222 Practical Applications and Issues  
in Assessment and Classroom  
Management: Special Education ..... 3

### **Educational Investigative Sequence (9 sh)**

EDG 5366 Investigative Strategies and  
Empirical Foundations in Learning &  
Development..... 3  
EEX 6340 Action Research ..... 3  
EEX 6945 Research Practicum in Special Education.... 3

### **Cognate Courses (12 sh)**

EEX 5283 Employment, Social, and Personal Skill  
Building for Exceptional Students ..... 3  
EEX 6227 Assessment of Exceptional Children ..... 3  
EEX 6612 Classroom Management ..... 3  
EME 6316C Instructional Management & Technology ..... 3

### **Certification Requirements (18 sh)**

LAE 3314 Language Skills & Literature  
in the Elementary School..... 3  
MAE 4310 Teaching Mathematics in the  
Elementary School..... 3  
RED 3310 Teaching Developmental Reading  
in the Elementary School..... 3  
RED 4542 Teaching Developmental Reading  
in the Elementary School II..... 3  
TSL 4080 ESOL Principles & Practices ..... 3  
TSL 4081 Empowering Teachers to Teach  
English to ESOL Students ..... 3  
(In accordance with Rule 6A-4.01795)

### **Clinical Field Experience (3 sh)**

EDE 4944 ESOL/Reading Professional  
Practicum III..... 3

### **Student Teaching (6 sh)**

EDG 5940 Graduate Student Teaching ..... 6  
Course offered 1-6 sh per semester