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Special Education: Gifted, M.Ed.



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The Master of Education program in Education of the Gifted is designed for elementary, middle, and secondary teachers who wish to specialize in the education of academically gifted students. Louisiana certification to teach the academically gifted requires certification in one or more areas of regular education. Graduates of this program will be granted state certification to teach in programs for the academically gifted at the level(s) and in the subject(s) for which they hold regular certification, as well as in enrichment programs or classes at all levels.

Admission Requirements

In addition to the general admission requirements of the Graduate School, admission to the graduate program in Gifted Education requires the following:

1. A valid teaching certificate in one or more areas of general education;
2. Evidence of either one year of full-time teaching experience or current employment in a full-time teaching position; and
3. Three letters of recommendation. Letters must address the candidate's potential to become a master teacher and to facilitate the learning of academically gifted students.

Required Courses

The M.Ed. degree in Special Education: Gifted requires completion of a minimum of 33 semester hours. Required courses include the following:

Foundational Courses (6 Credit Hours)

- EDCI 507 – Writing for the Responsive Professional **3 Credit(s)**
- EDCI 508 – Research Methods to Impact Student Learning **3 Credit(s)**

Core Courses (21 Credit Hours)

Take care to note prerequisites included in individual course descriptions.

- SPED 506 – Nature and Needs of Gifted Children **3 Credit(s)**
- SPED 500 – Social-Emotional Needs of the Gifted **3 Credit(s)**
- SPED 503 – Developing Creativity in the Classroom **3 Credit(s)**
- SPED 509 – Instructional Strategies for Teaching the Gifted **3 Credit(s)**
- SPED 510 – Curriculum Development for the Gifted **3 Credit(s)**
- SPED 513 – Practicum in Gifted Education **6 Credit(s)** *
- IRED 5XX – Any three-credit 500-level course in education technology.

Note:

*Note: In exceptional cases, SPED 591 – Internship in Gifted Education may be substituted for SPED 513 with approval of the graduate coordinator.

Final Core Hours

The final core credit hours consist of the following:

- EDCI 590 – Applied Research in Curriculum and Instruction I **2 Credit(s)**
- EDCI 591 – Applied Research in Curriculum and Instruction II **1 Credit(s)**

Comprehensive Examination

In addition to completion of the above-identified coursework, candidates for the M.Ed. degree in Special Education: Gifted are required to complete a comprehensive examination that includes written and oral components. The comprehensive examination is used to assess students' knowledge, skills and understandings of the field of gifted education. It is expected that the written exam will be taken upon completion of the foundation and core courses during the second summer in the cohort program. The oral exam will be completed in the final semester of the program as part of the Capstone Presentation in EDCI 591.

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