MASTER OF ARTS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Masters of Arts (MA) in Special Education is designed for a broad range of professionals (e.g., general or special education teachers, graduates in related fields) to provide in-depth learning and experiences related to supporting children and adults with disabilities and at risk for learning and behavioral difficulties.

The MA program provides programs of study in three specialization areas with nationally known faculty researchers: 1) School-Wide Positive Behavior Supports positive behavior supports, 2) Literacy Supports, and 3) Transition and Postsecondary supports. Students may also design an individualized program of study in collaboration with their advisor.

The MA in Special Education is for special or general educators who:

- Want advanced specialized knowledge and skills in positive behavioral supports, literacy supports, or transition and postsecondary supports;
- Are interested in increasing the breadth and depth of their knowledge and skills in supporting the increasingly diverse learning needs of students in today’s classrooms;
- Want to support all students, including students with disabilities and at risk for learning and/or behavior difficulties, in a variety of classroom settings within a Response to Intervention (a.k.a. SRBI in CT) framework.

SPECIFIC AREAS OF INTEREST

For information about specific areas of interest, please contact the following respective faculty.

**School-Wide Positive Behavior Supports**

Dr. Brandi Simonsen, Assoc. Professor  
Phone: (860) 486-2763  
E-mail: brandi.simonsen@uconn.edu

**Literacy Supports**

Dr. Natalie Olinghouse, Assoc. Professor  
Phone: (860) 486-6153  
E-mail: natalie.olinghouse@uconn.edu

**Transition and Postsecondary Services for Students with Disabilities**

Dr. Allison Lombardi, Assist. Professor  
Phone: (860) 486-2213  
E-mail: allison.lombardi@uconn.edu

**Master of Arts: General Studies in Special Education**

Dr. Allison Lombardi, Assist. Professor  
Phone: (860) 486-2213  
E-mail: allison.lombardi@uconn.edu

Please Note: The Master of Arts in Special Education does not lead to initial certification or cross endorsement.

REQUIRED COURSES

- EPSY 5119  Policy, Law, and Ethics in Special Education
- EPSY 5121  Developmental Foundations of Exceptionality
- EPSY 5092  Practicum (3-6 credits)
- EPSY 5601  Principles and Methods in Educational Research (or equivalent)

SAMPLE ADDITIONAL COURSES

- EPSY 5108  Instruction for Students with Special Needs in the Mainstream
- EPSY 5113  Beginning Reading Supports for Students with Learning Difficulties
- EPSY 5114  Adolescent Reading Supports for Students with Learning Difficulties
- EPSY 5115  Writing Supports for Students with Learning Difficulties
- EPSY 5116  Individual Pupil Assessment
- EPSY 5123  Instructional Strategies and Adaptations for Students with Special Learning Needs
- EPSY 5140  Transition Planning for Students with Disabilities
- EPSY 5141  Classroom and Behavior Management
- EPSY 5142  Individualized Positive Behavior Supports
- EPSY 5145  Issues in Postsecondary Disability Services
- EPSY 5220  Introduction to Educational Technology
- EPSY 5405  Applied Behavior Analysis
ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

All students seeking the Master of Arts Degree in Special Education must be formally admitted to the Master's Program in Education through the University's Graduate School.

The following elements are considered for admission to the Master's Program in Special Education:

- Undergraduate and/or graduate grade point average (ordinarily 3.0 or above on a 4-point scale).
- 3 Strong letters of recommendation.
- Personal statement indicating:
  - Professional goals;
  - Area of interest based on specializations listed above; and
  - Explanation of experience with and demonstrated commitment to children and/or adults with disabilities or children at-risk for failure.

For application materials, please contact:

Graduate School Office of Admissions
University of Connecticut
438 Whitney Road Ext., Unit 1006A
Storrs, CT 06269-1006
Phone: (860) 486-3617

Or visit their website at www.grad.uconn.edu

Application deadlines are:

October 31st for Spring Semester
February 15th for Fall Semester

For information on initial teacher licensure please contact:

Teacher Certification Program for College Graduates (TCPCG)
https://teacheered.education.uconn.edu/tepcg-overview/

The University of Connecticut's Master's Program in Special Education encourages applications by students from traditionally underrepresented groups.

The mailing address for all faculty is as follows:

University of Connecticut
Neag School of Education
Department of Educational Psychology
249 Glenbrook Road, Unit 3064
Storrs, CT 06269-3064

This publication is available in alternate format upon request. For alternate format or any additional information, please contact:

Dr. Allison Lombardi, Assist. Prof.
Department of Educational Psychology
University of Connecticut
249 Glenbrook Road, Unit 3064
Storrs, CT 06269-3064

E-mail: allison.lombardi@uconn.edu

Masters in Educational Psychology
with
A Concentration in Special Education

Tailored for your specific professional goals:

- Specialization in School-Wide Positive Behavior Supports
- Specialization in Literacy Supports
- Specialization in Postsecondary Education or Students with Disabilities
- General Studies in Special Education

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http://specialed.education.uconn.edu/