Information on admission requirements for the Master of Education (M.Ed.) program in Special Education at Penn State is as follows:

**Degree Requirements**

**Master of Education (M.Ed.)**

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-700 Professional Degree Policies (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies).

Prerequisites for the M.Ed. program include 10 credits basic to the education of exceptional children (courses comparable to SPLED 400, SPLED 403A or SPLED 403B, and SPLED 418). M.Ed. candidates are expected to complete the core:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPLED 525</td>
<td>Teaching Learners with Disabilities in Inclusive Settings</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPLED 573</td>
<td>Introduction to Research in Special Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPLED 521</td>
<td>Capstone Seminar in Special Education (or the equivalent)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electives**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elective credits</th>
<th>23-28</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Total Credits: 32-37

1. At least 21 must be taken in special education and include courses selected by students in conjunction with their adviser.

M.Ed. students must submit a master’s paper.

All requirements for the M.Ed. must be met within six years or a period spanning seven consecutive summers.

**Master of Science (M.S.)**

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Policies. (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies)

M.S. candidates are expected to complete the core:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPLED 573</td>
<td>Introduction to Research in Special Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDPSY 400</td>
<td>Introduction to Statistics in Educational Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electives**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elective credits</th>
<th>18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Of these 18 credits, 6 credits must be taken from one discipline outside of education.

**Culminating Experience**

| SPLED 600 | Thesis Research | 6       |

Total Credits: 30

Students must complete a total of 18 credits in special education; and 18 credits at the 500 and 600 level, combined. M.S. students must submit a master’s thesis and pass a comprehensive examination.

All requirements for the M.S. degree must be met within six years or a period spanning seven consecutive summers.

**Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)**

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Policies. (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies)

The language of instruction at Penn State is English. English proficiency test scores (TOEFL/IELTS) may be required for international applicants. See GCAC-305 Admission Requirements for International Students (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-300/gcac-305-admission-requirements-international-students) for more information.
The communication and foreign language requirement for the Ph.D. degree is prescribed by each student’s Ph.D. committee. Minimum requirements for the Ph.D. degree include:

- 24 credits of research methods;
- 18 credits in a cognate area such as psychology, sociology, or child development; and
- 36 credits in education.

The student also must enroll in SPLED 500 each semester prior to successful completion of the comprehensive examinations. A qualifying examination is required after the first semester of full-time study; written and oral comprehensive examinations also are required. A student is required to complete the program within seven years from the date of successful completion of the qualifying examination.

**Dual-Titles**

**Dual-Title M.Ed., M.S., and Ph.D. in Special Education and Comparative and International Education**

Requirements listed here are in addition to requirements listed in GCAC-208 Dual-Title Graduate Degree Programs (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-200/gcac-208-dual-title-graduate-degree-programs).

**Admission Requirements**

Students must apply and be admitted to the graduate program in Special Education and The Graduate School before they can apply for admission to the dual-title degree program. After admission to their primary program, students must apply for admission to and meet the admissions requirements of the Comparative and International Education dual-title program. Refer to the Admission Requirements section of the Comparative and International Education Bulletin page (http://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/comparative-international-education). Doctoral students must be admitted into the dual-title degree program in Comparative and International Education prior to taking the qualifying examination in their primary graduate program.

**Degree Requirements**

To qualify for the dual-title degree, students must satisfy the degree requirements for the degree they are enrolled in Special Education. In addition, students must complete the degree requirements for the dual-title in Comparative and International Education, listed on the Comparative and International Education Bulletin page (http://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/comparative-international-education). The qualifying examination committee for the dual-title Ph.D. degree will be composed of Graduate Faculty from Special Education and must include at least one Graduate Faculty member from the Comparative and International Education program. Faculty members who hold appointments in both programs’ Graduate Faculty may serve in a combined role. There will be a single qualifying examination, containing elements of both Special Education and Comparative and International Education. Dual-title graduate degree students may require an additional semester to fulfill requirements for both areas of study and, therefore, the qualifying examination may be delayed one semester beyond the normal period allowable.

In addition to the general Graduate Council requirements for Ph.D. committees (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-600/phd-dissertation-committee-formation), the Ph.D. committee of a Special Education and Comparative and International Education dual-title Ph.D. student must include at least one member of the Comparative and International Education Graduate Faculty. Faculty members who hold appointments in both programs’ Graduate Faculty may serve in a combined role. If the chair of the Ph.D. committee is not also a member of the Graduate Faculty in Comparative and International Education, the member of the committee representing Comparative and International Education must be appointed as co-chair. The Comparative and International Education representative on the student’s Ph.D. committee will develop questions for and participate in the evaluation of the comprehensive examination.

Students in the dual-title program are required to write and orally defend a dissertation on a topic that is approved in advance by their Ph.D. committee and reflects their original research and education in Special Education and Comparative and International Education. Upon completion of the doctoral dissertation, the candidate must pass a final oral examination (the dissertation defense) to earn the Ph.D. degree. The dissertation must be accepted by the Ph.D. committee, the head of the graduate program, and the Graduate School.

**Student Aid**

Graduate assistantships available to students in this program and other forms of student aid are described in the Tuition & Funding (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-funding) section of The Graduate School’s website. Students on graduate assistantships must adhere to the course load limits (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gsad-gsad-900/gsad-901-graduate-assistants) set by The Graduate School.

The following award typically has been available to graduate students in this program:

**U.S. Office of Education Assistantships or Traineeships in Special Education**

Open to graduate students being prepared as leadership personnel in special education; stipend varies, depending on conditions of existing grants. Other graduate assistantships also may be available. Apply to the Graduate Admissions Committee, 125D CEDAR Building.

World Campus students in graduate degree programs may be eligible for financial aid. Refer to the Tuition and Financial Aid section (http://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/tuition-and-financial-aid) of the World Campus website for more information.

**Courses**

Graduate courses carry numbers from 500 to 699 and 800 to 899. Advanced undergraduate courses numbered between 400 and 499 may be used to meet some graduate degree requirements when taken by graduate students. Courses below the 400 level may not. A graduate student may register for or audit these courses in order to make up deficiencies or to fill in gaps in previous education but not to meet requirements for an advanced degree.

Special Education (SPLED) Course List (https://bulletins.psu.edu/university-course-descriptions/graduate/spled)
### Contact

**Campus**  
University Park

**Graduate Program Head**  
Mary Catherine Scheeler

**Director of Graduate Studies (DGS)**  
Mary Catherine Scheeler

**or Professor-in-Charge (PIC)**  
Mary Catherine Scheeler

**Program Contact**  
Jennifer L. Farkus  
125G CEDAR Bldg  
University Park PA 16802  
jlf5261@psu.edu  
(814) 863-0474

**Program Website**  
View (http://ed.psu.edu/epcse/special-education/special-education)

---

**Campus**  
World Campus

**Graduate Program Head**  
Mary Catherine Scheeler

**Director of Graduate Studies (DGS)**  
Mary Catherine Scheeler

**or Professor-in-Charge (PIC)**  
Mary Catherine Scheeler

**Program Contact**  
Jennifer L. Farkus  
jlf5261@psu.edu  
(814) 863-0474

**Program Website**  
View (http://ed.psu.edu/epcse/special-education/special-education)