Purpose of Program

The purpose of this program is to provide training in special education advocacy for parents of children with disabilities, novice and experienced teachers, and other professionals who are new to the field of special education. This program is designed to help parents and professionals better understand special education law and its application and assist future advocates in developing the skills to effectively facilitate the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process. Students will also learn how to reduce barriers between parents and schools to promote good communication and effective negotiation while acting ethically and responsibly for the benefit of the child.

Program Options

This certificate focuses on special education and policy from an applied perspective as it relates to special education advocacy. The program is intended to:

- Provide an overview of the impact of disability on the family and special education law
- Provide the knowledge necessary to advocate on behalf of students with disabilities
- Prepare students to become effective and collaborative advocates.

The Graduate Certificate in Special Education Advocacy requires students to complete the following 12 hours:

- SPE 5403 Survey of Special Education
- SPE 5503 Introduction to Applied Behavioral Analysis
- SPE 5613 Legal Issues in Special Education
- SPE 6623 Seminar on Current and Critical Issues in Special Education

Career Opportunities

This certificate is intended to boost the knowledge, skills and marketability in the field of special education advocacy for a) parents, grandparents, and caretakers of children with special needs; b) teachers, advocates, and service providers such as occupational and speech therapists; c) graduate students in a variety of fields, including social work, counselling, and psychology; and d) community agencies that provide services to individuals with special needs and their families.
Admission Requirements

> Current graduate students must submit a program application through the certificate program advisor
> Applicants not currently enrolled must apply as a special graduate student, meet UTSA Graduate School admission requirements, and:

  Hold a Baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution
  A GPA of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) in last 30 hours of baccalaureate program and all previous graduate work
  Be in good standing at the last institution attended

** Students who do not meet the minimum admission requirements or require assistance should consult the program’s Student Development Specialist and the Graduate School Catalog for assistance.

How to Apply

Apply through the UTSA Graduate School

graduate@utsa.edu

Send all USPS mail (transcripts, etc.) to:

The University of Texas at San Antonio
Attn: The Graduate School
One UTSA Circle
San Antonio, TX 78249

Send electronic transcripts to:

graduateadmissions@utsa.edu

Financial Aid and Scholarships

To apply, complete the Free Application for Federal Student Assistance (FAFSA)

fafsa.ed.gov

Graduate assistantship positions available within the college (average of 19 hours per week)

Additional graduate student scholarship information:

education.utsa.edu/interdisciplinary_learning_and_teaching/

education.utsa.edu/financialaid

utsa.edu/scholarships

education.utsa.edu/current_students/scholarships

T: 210.458.4370  |  education.utsa.edu