Purpose of Program
The Special Education program is a practical, teacher-oriented program designed for general education teachers, special education teachers, paraprofessionals, behavior analysts, and other professionals seeking initial, additional, or advanced study in working with students with disabilities. Students acquire an understanding of learning theories, special education policies, research-validated instructional strategies, and behavior analytic practices needed to work with students with disabilities and their families.

Program Options
Applicants may choose a thesis (33 hours) or a non-thesis (36 hours) option. In addition to the required core courses for all students seeking the MA in Education, the following courses are required for the Special Education Concentration area:

- **SPE 5403** Survey of Special Education
- **SPE 5503** Applied Behavior Analysis for Classroom Teachers
- **SPE 5513** Curriculum and Instructional Application for Children and Youth in Special Education
- **SPE 6403** Ethically and Culturally Responsive Teaching
- **SPE 6623** Seminar on Current and Critical Issues in Special Education

Students take courses on such topics as communication and collaboration, assessment, special education law, research-based academic and behavioral interventions, applied behavior analysis for both classroom teachers and clinicians, and on the use and integration of technology-based applications for children and youth with mild (e.g., learning disabilities) and more severe/profound disabilities (e.g., autism spectrum disorders) in the public/private school, home, and community settings. Students consult with their faculty advisor to select additional hours of support courses.

In addition, students who complete the Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) emphasis and its additional requirements may be eligible for certification as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). Students interested in becoming a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) should consult with their faculty advisor or student development specialist as specific coursework is required.

Career Opportunities
Graduates of the program pursue careers serving children, youth, and adults with disabilities. Graduates can become teachers, supervisors, and administrators in public and private schools, service agencies, and therapy centers.
Admission Requirements

- A baccalaureate degree from an accredited university with a minimum grade point average of 3.0 in last 60 hours coursework
- Be in good standing with the last institution attended
- Completion of 18 undergraduate credit hours in education or related field (including 12 upper-division level hours)**

** Applicants without adequate undergraduate hours in education may be required to complete background courses as a condition of admission. If assigned, these are required in addition to the minimum number of hours for the degree.

How to Apply

Apply through the UTSA Graduate School

graduate school.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

Contact Information

College of Education and Human Development

education.utsa.edu

education@utsa.edu

210.458.4370

Graduate School

graduateschool.utsa.edu

graduateadmissions@utsa.edu

210.458.4331

Department of Interdisciplinary Learning and Teaching

education.utsa.edu/interdisciplinary_learning_and_teaching/

210.458.7443

Financial Aid

utsa.edu/financialaid

210.458.8000 (general line)

210.458.7169 (appointments)

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:

graduateschool.utsa.edu/funding

utsa.edu/scholarships

education.utsa.edu/current_students/scholarships