

EDUCATION, M.A.ED. (PRELIMINARY EDUCATION SPECIALIST INSTRUCTION CREDENTIAL — MILD TO MODERATE SUPPORT NEEDS (MMSN) - STUDENT TEACHING) (LICENSURE)

Overview

Degree Program

The Master of Arts in Education (Licensure) (<https://www.biola.edu/degrees/g/education-ma/>), formerly the Master of Arts in Education, is a research-oriented degree that prepares candidates to work in a variety of academic settings, including leadership roles, and sets the stage for a doctorate. The program emphasizes professional writing, research and theory. With many specialization options, the M.A.Ed. (Licensure) allows you to choose a route that is tailored to your specific educational background and career interests.

The Special Education Specialization prepares students who desire to earn a California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) approved Education Specialist credential while working towards a master's degree.

Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the Master of Arts in Education (Licensure), students will be able to:

1. Analyze, evaluate, and apply knowledge of current educational issues, settings, and legislative requirements from a biblical perspective (ULO 1).
2. Identify personal assumptions and generalizations related to diversity (e.g., gender, ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, and [dis]abilities) while affirming that all students are valued as image bearers of God (ULO 2).
3. Exhibit growth in one's professional practice by utilizing professional databases, conducting empirical research, and articulating findings through effective communication in both speaking and writing (ULO 1, 2, and 3).
4. Evaluate qualitative and quantitative journal articles based on standard criteria within the profession (ULO 3).
5. Synthesize knowledge, skills, and perspectives from concentration-specific content of the master of education program to determine implications for professional practice (ULO 2).*

Each Program Learning Outcome (PLO) listed above references at least one of the University Learning Outcomes (ULO 1, 2, 3), which may be found in the General Information section (<https://catalog.biola.edu/general-information/#UniversityLearningOutcomes>) of this catalog.

*Concentration proficiency and fulfillment of PLO 5 will be provided in the student's capstone class.

Admission Requirements

Admission Requirements

- Applicants must have completed all bachelor's requirements prior to the start of the program and must have a bachelor's degree conferred from a regionally accredited institution prior to the start of the second term.
- Must be a California resident to fulfill fieldwork requirements.
- Foreign transcripts must be evaluated by a California Commission on Teacher Credentialing approved organization ([https://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/foreign-transcript-evaluation-\(cl-635/\)](https://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/foreign-transcript-evaluation-(cl-635/))) and verified equivalent to a U.S. bachelor's degree.
- Hold a preliminary credential or provide verification of the equivalent professional experience.
- Writing proficiency will be evaluated for each applicant in one or more of the following ways: a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or above; passage of the CBEST or all CSET subtests, an academic paper, the application essays, or the GRE. A proctored placement exam may be requirement.
- Have a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale.
- Applicants for whom English is not a primary language must verify a score of 100 iBT on the TOEFL exam.
- Complete Biola University's Graduate Education application.
- Interview with a member of the School of Education.
- Satisfy or meet one area of the Basic Skills Requirement in an approved California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) option ([https://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/basic-skills-requirement-\(cl-667/\)](https://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/basic-skills-requirement-(cl-667/))).
- Satisfy Subject Matter Competency by an approved California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) option (<https://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/subject-matter-requirements/>) or continuous progress toward meeting the subject matter requirement.
- Hold a valid Certificate of Clearance from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing and submit valid TB tests results.

Official documents presented for admission or evaluation become part of the student's academic file and normally cannot be returned or copied for distribution.

Graduation Requirements

Graduation Requirements

1. M.A.Ed. (Licensure) core courses and Capstone must be passed with a grade of B or higher.
2. Candidates must complete the Master of Arts in Education (Licensure) with a 3.0 cumulative GPA.
3. Candidates must successfully complete one Capstone and all professional requirements (e.g., conference requirement, concentration reflection) related to the coursework and Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs).
4. Candidates must demonstrate professional behavior as an important aspect of their preparation to effectively impact the field of education (inside and beyond the classroom). For candidates on probationary status, or where a candidate has struggled with

professional dispositions (scores of 1 or 2), these concerns may prevent the candidate from moving forward in the program and graduation.

5. A minimum of 37 credits is required for the Master of Arts in Education (Licensure).
6. Candidates must complete the program within six years of continuous enrollment. Candidates who are not continuously enrolled must complete the program within eight years total.
7. Candidates must meet with a department advisor and graduate academic records and degree specialist in the Office of the Registrar one semester prior to graduation to declare intent to graduate. (See the Graduate Graduation Application section (<https://catalog.biola.edu/academic-policies/graduation-and-degree-conferral/graduate/#GraduateGraduationApplication>).

Program Requirements

Transfer of Credits

Students transferring from an accredited graduate program may transfer credit following the guidelines below. Credits considered for transfer must have been taken within five years prior to the date of admission.

Program Coursework

- A maximum of 6 approved credits may be transferred towards the M.A. in Education (Licensure) **program courses**.
- Courses transferred must be equivalent to Biola University's courses and directly apply to the student's program design.
- Only courses with a grade of B (3.0) or higher on a 4.0 grade scale will be considered for transfer towards the M.A. in Education (Licensure) **program courses**; courses completed with a grade of B- (2.7) or lower will not be transferable.

Specialization Coursework

- A maximum of 9 director-evaluated and approved credits may be waived towards the Multiple, Single, or Preliminary Education Specialist Instructions Credentials (Licensure) **specialization courses**.
- Courses waived must be equivalent to Biola University's teacher credential courses and directly apply to the student's program design.
- Only courses with a grade of B- (2.7) or higher on a 4.0 grade scale will be considered for waiver towards the teacher credential **specialization courses**; courses completed with a grade of C+ (2.3) or lower will not be transferable.
- Undergraduate courses may be used to waive specialization course requirements; however, such courses cannot transfer in for academic graduate credit on a Biola transcript. Waived course credits are not required to be made up; a minimum of 37 credits is required for the Master of Arts in Education (Licensure).

Curriculum Requirements

Preliminary Education Specialist Instruction Credential — Mild to Moderate Support Needs (MMSN) - Student Teaching) (Licensure)

All candidates for the M.A.Ed. Preliminary Education Specialist Instruction Credential — Mild to Moderate Support Needs (MMSN) - Student Teaching (Licensure), formerly M.A.Ed. Preliminary Education

Specialist Instruction Credential — Mild to Moderate Support Needs (MMSN) - Student Teaching, must complete the following courses and required fieldwork.

Code	Title	Credits
Program Courses		
Courses must be completed with a grade of B or higher.		
SEED 501	Philosophy and Values in Schools and Society	3
SEED 502	Advanced Educational Psychology	3
SEED 503	Educational Research and Statistics	3
SEED 504	Advanced Curriculum and Instruction	3
SEED 524	Research in Culture and Intercultural Instruction	3
SEED 554	Professional Writing and Research ¹	3
SEED 596	Professional Development Module	1
SEED 7320	The Life of Christ for Educators	3
Capstone Course		
Select one of the following: ²		3
SEED 598	Curriculum Research Project ³	
SEED 599	Thesis ³	
Specialization Courses (42 Credits Online)		
Prerequisite Coursework ⁴		
SEED 518	Designing Successful Classrooms: Starting Right	3
SEED 530	Reading Process and Approaches	3
Specialization Coursework		
SEED 561	Issues in Special Education	3
SEED 562	Assessment and Evaluation of Exceptional Learners	3
SEED 563	Teaching Students with Mild to Moderate Support Needs in Inclusive Settings	3
SEED 564	Behavior and Classroom Management for Students with Special Needs	3
SEED 580	Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorders	3
SEED 532	Diagnosis and Remediation in Reading	3
SEED 582	Consultation, Collaboration, and Communication for the Education Specialist	3
SEED 583	Curriculum Design for Students with Mild to Moderate Support Needs ⁵	3
Clinical Coursework		
SEED 584	Student Teaching in Special Education I	6
SEED 585	Student Teaching in Special Education II	6
Total Credits		67

- ¹ Successful passage of SEED 554 is required for advancement in the program. Writing support and documentation may be mandatory for some students.
- ² One of the following courses must be completed in the final semester. To produce quality research, it is recommended to be the only class taken in the final semester.
- ³ Course must be completed with a grade of B or higher.
- ⁴ All candidates for the Preliminary Education Specialist Instruction Credential (Mild to Moderate Support Needs (MMSN)) (Licensure) who come to Biola University with an SB2042 Multiple Subject or Single Subject Credential will have the prerequisite coursework waived. Additionally, candidates who have taken undergraduate or graduate equivalents of the prerequisite coursework will have their transcripts evaluated for equivalency. The Prerequisite Option will be determined by the Program Director during the interview process to the program.
- ⁵ SEED 583 may only be taken the semester immediately prior to SEED 584/SEED 585.

Minimum Grades and GPA Requirements for Credential Courses

All Education Specialist coursework must be completed with a grade of B- or higher. Overall, a 3.0 GPA must be maintained in the Education Specialist course sequence in order to student teach and to be recommended for a Preliminary Education Specialist Instruction Credential.

Taskstream Subscription

Candidates must have a paid subscription to Taskstream while taking Education Specialist courses, including prerequisites, and during student teaching.

Certificate of Clearance and Tuberculosis (TB) Test

Candidates must obtain a valid Certificate of Clearance prior to taking Education Specialist courses in order to participate in the required fieldwork. Fees required.

Candidates must submit valid TB tests results prior to taking Education Specialist courses with fieldwork. TB tests results must be done annually in order to participate in the required fieldwork. Fees required.

Basic Skills Requirement

Candidates must satisfy the basic skills requirement by an approved California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) option ([https://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/basic-skills-requirement-\(cl-667/\)](https://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/basic-skills-requirement-(cl-667/)). This requirement must be met prior to applying for student teaching.

Literacy Performance Assessment

Pursuant to SB 488, beginning July 1, 2025, all newly enrolled credential candidates in Preliminary Multiple Subject, Education Specialist, and PK-3 Early Childhood Education Specialist Instruction credential programs must pass a Commission-adopted performance assessment that includes literacy instruction in order to be recommended for their credential. This means that current and prospective candidates who wish to take the RICA examination to meet the credential requirement for literacy instruction must take and pass either all three subtests of the written examination or the video performance assessment by July 1, 2025. The RICA examination will be retired as of July 1, 2025, and will no longer be available.

Candidates who attempt or have attempted RICA but do not pass either all three subtests of the written examination or the video performance assessment by July 1, 2025, will be required to instead pass the Commission-adopted performance assessment that includes literacy instruction.

Subject Matter Competency Requirement

Candidates must satisfy subject matter competency by an approved California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) option (<https://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/subject-matter-requirements/>). This requirement must be met prior to applying for student teaching.

Education Specialist CalTPA

Candidates must meet or exceed the minimum standards for passing the two state-mandated Education Specialist California Teaching Performance Assessments (Education Specialist CalTPAs). Cycle 1 of the Education Specialist CalTPAs must be passed prior to student teaching. Cycle 2 must be passed prior to applying for the Preliminary Education Specialist Instruction (Mild to Moderate Support Needs (MMSN)) Credential.

Portfolio Assessments

Candidates must complete and successfully present the Preliminary Education Specialist Credential (Mild to Moderate Support Needs (MMSN)) electronic portfolio.

Recommendation

Candidates must be recommended by the faculty of the School of Education as having all requisite professional qualities to be successful as a teacher.

Professional Dispositions and Competencies Evaluations

Candidates must demonstrate high performance in each Professional Dispositions and Competencies Evaluation for Education Specialist coursework in order to remain in the program. Evidence of unaddressed concerns (scores of 1 or 2) or failing to meet a professional disposition may lead to dismissal.

Fieldwork Evaluation

Candidates must obtain good to excellent scores in each fieldwork evaluation for Education Specialist coursework, including student teaching.

U.S. Constitution Requirement

The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing requires that a teaching credential candidate must have completed a minimum 2-credit course that covers the U.S. Constitution or fulfill this requirement by examination.

Transfer coursework must be reviewed by a credential analyst in the School of Education. Candidates who have taken one of the courses listed below, with a grade of C or better at Biola University, have met this requirement. This requirement must be met prior to applying for student teaching.

Code	Title	Credits
HIST 200	United States History To 1865	3
POSC 225	Survey of American Government	3

CPR

Candidates must show verification of current training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) — infant, child, and adult — that meets the standards of either the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross when applying for the Preliminary Education Specialist Instruction (Mild to Moderate Support Needs (MMSN)) Credential.

Advisor Contact

Candidates must meet regularly with an advisor to ensure that all requirements are met.

Applying for a Credential

Preliminary Education Specialist Instruction (Mild to Moderate Support Needs (MMSN)) Credential

After successfully completing student teaching and the associated requirements, candidates make an appointment with a credential analyst in the School of Education at Biola University and apply for the Education Specialist Instruction (Mild to Moderate Support Needs (MMSN)) Credential from the State of California's Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

The Education Specialist Instruction (Mild to Moderate Support Needs (MMSN)) Program leading to a California Teaching Credential at Biola University is subject to change in response to new legislation and for accreditation/reporting purposes. Please see a credential analyst for current information on completing the requirements for a teaching credential.