Specialize your training to support all individuals with diverse learning abilities and behavioral needs through professional excellence and advocacy.

For individuals without an undergraduate degree in education, earn a Master's of Education from a Special Education Program that aspires to be globally renowned for its expertise, leadership, diversity, and high quality teacher and professional preparation in the field of special education.

Program Snapshot

Program type: Master's Degree
Format: Online
Est. time to complete: 1.5+ years
Credit hours: 32+

Why Study Special Education at UND?

The program is designed for educators and other professionals interested in the study of children, adolescents and/or adults with diverse learning abilities. The degree is appropriate for candidates with a bachelor's degree in a field other than education. The degree emphasizes scholarly application for practitioners, and students may continue their education and pursue a Doctor of Education.

You can choose from eight specializations:

- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
  Also offered as a Autism Spectrum Disorder certificate
- Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)
- General Special Education
- Emotional Behavioral Disorders (EBD)
- Intellectual Disabilities (ID)
- Learning Disabilities (LD)
- Special Education Strategist (SES)
- Visual Impairment (VI)

Online students have an affordable tuition rate. You will pay the in-state tuition as a North Dakota resident.

You will learn from an interdisciplinary group of faculty members with extensive experience as practitioners, professors, and researchers. We offer an approved teacher certification program for North Dakota that is transferable to most states.

For current teachers or for those seeking ABA specialization, earn your M.S. in Special Education.

Top Online Special Education Degree in the Nation

Every special education program offers education, but not every program prepares students to make a real impact the way UND does. UND is increasingly regarded as one of the top academic and research institutions in the nation for education. We consistently rank among the best for educational quality, affordability, and career outcomes.

Recognized by U.S. News & World Report as a top online Education program
Accredited Special Education Program

The Special Education Program within the Department of Teaching, Learning & Professional Practice is accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) and approved by Educational Standards and Practices Board (ESPB).

Watch a Q&A with UND Special Education faculty.

Application Deadlines

FALL: JUNE 15
SPRING: OCT 15
SUMMER: MAR 15

Special Education M.Ed. Overview

- Borderless: Program is entirely online with no on-campus travel requirement
- Barrier-Free: No entry exams, consistent course offerings for timely graduation, flexible completion of structured lessons, coursework tied to practical experiences, option of on-the-job fieldwork, and master's project applicable to field
- Individualized: Responsive faculty, one-on-one advising, and customized program of study
- Ranked by thebestschools.org as a top online program.

Special Education M.Ed. Careers

57K Median annual wage for special education teachers*
8% Projected job growth for special education teachers through 2026* Teachers with master's degrees fall on the high end of the scale or earn a premium income.

*U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Careers in Special Education

Job prospects for special education teachers are excellent due to the rising enrollments of students receiving special education and shortages of qualified teachers. Job openings are expected as a result or teacher retirements or career changes.

Our graduates work in schools, hospitals, human services agencies, state and private institutions and in private practice.

When You Earn a Master's degree in Special Education

A Special Education degree gives you the strategic skills you need, including:

- Curriculum Development
- Lesson Planning
- Event Planning
- Autism Therapies
- Strategic Planning

UND Special Education Alumni

Special Education alumni have gone on to a variety of successful careers with:
- West Fargo District
- Anne Carlsen Center
- Grand Forks Public Schools
- Blake High School
- Family Support Services of North Idaho, LLC