Integrated General Education and Special Education
Initial Teacher Certification

The Master of Science in Special Education with a Concentration in Integrated General Education and Special Education is designed for those seeking initial teacher certification in general education and special education. The program has three outcomes:

1. USM Master of Science in Special Education
2. Recommendation for K-8 elementary or 7-12 content area teacher certification
3. Recommendation for K-8 or 7-12 (282) teacher of students with disabilities

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Designed for those seeking initial teacher certification
- Program is based on the belief that a teacher, regardless of appointment as general educator or special educator, is better able to serve students with or without disabilities when their preparation includes the knowledge and skills requisite for teaching students with diverse abilities and backgrounds.
- All courses are available online, allowing students the flexibility of working from anywhere.
- Out-of-state students are charged a special e-tuition rate, which is less than the out-of-state tuition rate.
- Options to specialize in grades K-8 or 7-12
- Program can be completed in two to three years
- USM works in partnership with school districts, special purpose schools, and state approved agencies to make the program available to paraeducators and others employed in education.
- 9-credit internship allows for real-world practice and supervision.
PROGRAM OVERVIEW

This program is ideal for educational technicians, as an Individual Internship Plan (IIP) is designed by the school district, university, and candidate to accommodate employment responsibilities, program requirements, and family needs.

The online (synchronous and asynchronous) program will be based on three principles for preparing teachers to serve learners with diverse abilities and backgrounds:

1. A teacher, regardless of appointment as general educator or special educator, is better able to serve students with or without disabilities when their preparation includes the knowledge and skills requisite for teaching students with diverse abilities and backgrounds.

2. A teacher is better able to contribute to a school-wide system of Response to Intervention or Multi-Tiered Systems of Student Support from core instruction Tier One through more intensive Tier Three and special education services when they are prepared for certification in both areas.

3. A district is better able to recruit and retain well-qualified special education and general education teachers through a “grow your own” approach. Using a school-university partnership, the district provides a pathway to double teacher certification and a master’s degree for its paraeducators and education technicians.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Rolling with priority deadlines: March 1 for summer matriculation, May 1 for fall matriculation, October 15 for spring matriculation

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Minimum Requirements: Applicant must have bachelor’s degree, from a regionally accredited college or university, and have earned a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) in a baccalaureate degree program. Applicants who do not have a 3.0 overall GPA must enclose a letter asking for special consideration, in which they provide evidence of an ability to complete graduate studies successfully.

Prerequisites: Maine certification Exceptionality Course SED 540, SED 335, or course course approved by the Maine Office of Certification. Passing scores for Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators Reading, Writing, and Mathematics.

APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE:

• A submitted online graduate admission application.
• The application fee of $65.00. The application fee is free for in-state Maine residents.
• Official transcripts for all colleges or universities attended. The Office of Graduate Admissions is able to obtain transcripts of courses completed after 1985 from any University of Maine system campus, so you do not need to request those; however, you do need to list them on your application.
• Three letters of recommendation attesting to the applicant’s knowledge of current scholarship, capacity to connect theory and practice in posing and solving educational problems, achievement of success in educational practice, and demonstrated capability and motivation to engage in advanced graduate study. Recommendations are submitted using our online application form.
• Essay: see essay question on website.
• Current resume.
• Praxis Core exam passed based on Maine’s standards.
• Completed and signed Completion of Exceptionalities Course Form. Completion of Maine’s required exceptionality course for all teachers at USM or another institution. See website for details.
• Certification of finances (international students only).
• Submission of official TOEFL or IELTS scores (if English is not the applicant’s first language).

Full admission requirements can be found at usm.maine.edu/special-education

For more information:
Special Education
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8 Bailey Hall, USM Gorham Campus
usm.maine.edu/special-education

For assistance with the application process:
Office of Admissions
(207) 780-4386
usmgrad@maine.edu