



# Master of Science: Special Education

An Online, Two and a Half-Year Professional Degree Program (42 credit hours)

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Master of Science in Education: Special Education program prepares pre-service students, alternatively licensed or already certified teachers to work with students with disabilities who access the general curriculum in grades K-12. The program is designed to prepare students to be critical, reflective thinkers; lifelong learners; and ethical, compassionate professionals committed to meeting the educational needs of an increasingly diverse school population and to continually strive to add to the knowledge base of the profession of teaching. This program includes the use of the newest instructional technologies, experiential learning, and exposure to information related to classroom management, individual education planning, and instructional delivery for students with disabilities in the K-12 school population.

## PROGRAM PREREQUISITES

- Bachelor's degree with a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA

## ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

- Graduate Application with a \$30 non-refundable application fee
- Bachelor's Degree (minimum 3.0 GPA)
- Unofficial transcripts for initial admission from all institutions of higher education previously attended.
- Three letters of recommendation
- Essay addressing your background and educational goals (2-3 pages)
- Praxis Academic Core Tests (and appropriate substitutes) are no longer required as entrance exams for graduate teacher education programs at Shenandoah University. Instead, students will complete the RVE and Praxis 2 exams during the course of the program. If you have already taken the RVE or would like to take it prior to applying, you are encouraged to submit your scores with your application.
- Language Proficiency Requirement must be met. Submission of TOEFL, IELTS, PTE, or Duolingo English Test may be required. See our policy for full details: <https://www.su.edu/admissions/international-students>

## ABOUT THE DIVISION OF EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP

Shenandoah University's Division of Education & Leadership (DOEL) prepares practitioner-leaders by offering programs of study that conform to the following principles: practicing in a spirit of collaboration; thoughtful examination of the foundations, current contexts, and future possibilities of the fields of study; encouraging proactive, problem-centered philosophies of educational and professional practice; producing graduates who will be knowledge-driven, competent decision-makers whose thinking is informed by reflective practice; and preparing caring, capable, and reflective teachers, administrators, human services, and public sector practitioners.

As part of efforts to make education more accessible for educators and leaders who serve our communities, all DOEL graduate programs are offered at a reduced tuition rate.

## ADMISSION & APPLICATION

### Start Term

Spring (January)  
Summer (May)  
Fall (August)

### Admission Deadline

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis

### Format/Location

Online synchronous

### How to Apply

Begin the online application process by going to [www.su.edu/sehdapp](http://www.su.edu/sehdapp)

### Foreign Transcripts

International transcript evaluation by an accredited agency is an admission requirement. Approved services are listed at [www.naces.org](http://www.naces.org) and <http://aice-eval.org/>.

### Transfer Credits

Only grades of "A" or "B" are transferable

A maximum of nine graduate hours may be approved by the Director

## Contact Us

Dr. Melissa Hartman  
Assistant Professor of Education Studies  
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Office of Graduate Admissions  
[SUGradAdmissions@su.edu](mailto:SUGradAdmissions@su.edu)  
call: 540-665-4581 | text: 540-546-6029

Office of Financial Aid  
<https://www.su.edu/financial-aid/incoming-graduate-aid/>  
[finaid@su.edu](mailto:finaid@su.edu) | call: 540-665-4538



**Dr. Melissa Hartman, Special Education  
Program Director**

## CURRICULUM

The degree requirement is 33-42 semester hours with a grade point average of 3.0 or better.

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Foundations*</b>		
PSYP 510	Human Growth & Learning	3
EDU 510	The Teaching Profession	3
RDG 523	Foundations of Literacy	3
<b>Methods</b>		
SED 537	Instructional Strategies in Mathematics for Students with Disabilities	3
SED 565	Foundations/Legal/Medical Aspects of SPED	3
SED 571	Characteristics of Students with Disabilities	3
SED 533	Language Acquisition & Reading Methods	3
SED 569	Collaborative & Consultative Strategies	3
SED 575	Transitions for Students with Disabilities	3
SED 567	SPED Instruction, Behavior Management and Assessment	3
SED 573	Curriculum, Instruction, & service Delivery	3
EDU 647	Projects in Curriculum & Instruction	3
<b>Passing scores on Praxis II and RVE</b>		
<b>Supervised Teaching Experience</b>		
EDU 661	Internship in Student Teaching K-12	6
<i>OR if provisionally licensed in special education, complete:</i>		
EDU 613	Management & Mentorship I (Fall Only)	3
EDU 614	Management & Mentorship II (Spring Only)	3
<b>Program Total</b>		<b>Total 42</b>

*\*If candidates have already completed the initial education foundations courses (or their equivalent), they only need to take the 24 credits of SED coursework, 6 credits supervised teaching experiences, and 3 credits of EDU 647 in order to complete the Master's degree.*

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### How much does the program cost?

Tuition through the Division of Education and Leadership is offered at the discounted rate of \$490 per credit hour for the [2025-2026 Academic Year](#).

### Can I complete this program while working full time?

Yes, all of our programs in the Division of Education & Leadership can be completed on a part-time basis, and all classes are offered in the evenings to accommodate working professionals. Most graduate students enrolled in DOEL programs also work full time.

### Are courses in person or online?

Classes are online synchronous with the possibility of some asynchronous weeks. They are one day a week for 2.5 hours. Synchronous classes are interactive and engaging and include group and individual work. The formats include lectures, interactive discussions, videos, and problem-solving activities. Some classes include practicum hours that students may apply in their current teaching positions. Students not currently teaching will be placed for practicum hours.