

Master of Science in Education-Special Education Degree Requirements

Important Notes to Graduate Candidates:

- 1) ALL candidates earning teacher licensure must be admitted to the Special Education Graduate Program and the Office of Graduate Studies in good standing.
- 2) Based on the Office of Graduate Studies, a total of 9 graduate credits may be transferred into a degree program from outside institutions and other UW-L graduate programs.
- 3) A total of 9 graduate credits taken as a “Graduate Special” student may be used toward a Master’s degree.
- 4) Graduate degrees must be comprised of graduate credits (500, 600, or 700 level courses).
- 5) Graduate degrees must be comprised of at least one half of those program credits from 700-level courses.
 - a. Thesis = 15 credits at the 700-level
 - b. Seminar Paper = 16 credits at the 700-level
 - c. Comprehensive Examination = 18 credits at the 700-level
- 6) Initial teacher certification candidates must complete ALL Master’s degree requirements and certifications before UW-L will recommend the candidate for licensure to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI).
- 7) Candidates may complete student teaching requirements “on-the-job” providing their job site is a public school supporting inclusive education. This determination is made the Office of Field Experience Director in consultation with the Graduate Special Education Program Director.

Core Requirements: (9 credits)

SPE 715 Special Education Law (3 cr.)

EFN 760 Theory & Practice in Educational Research (3 cr.)

OR

RDG 762 Reading Theory & Research (3 cr.)

RDG 730 Assess. & Instruction of Students w/ Reading Difficulties (3 cr)(With tutoring component)

Capstone Project (choose one): (2-6 credits)

SPE 799 Research: Master’s Thesis (6 cr.)(Total Program Credits: 30)

SPE 761 Research & Seminar in Special Education (2 cr.)(Total Program Credits: 32)

SPE 780 Seminar in Special Educ.: Comprehensive Examination (3 cr.)(Total Program Credits: 36)

Electives: (15 – 24 credits)

Candidates may be required to complete graduate level elective credits to meet graduate degree requirements.

1. Candidates earning a Master’s degree and completing initial teacher certification do not have to take elective 700-level credits.
2. Candidates adding-on teacher certification with a Master’s degree may require electives at the 700-level. (This generally applies to candidates teaching on an emergency license.) Credit totals for each capstone option are listed below to reflect elective needs with and without teacher certification.

| Master's Degree without Teacher Certification | | | Master's Degree + Add-on Teacher Certification | | |
|--|------------------|------|---|------------------|------|
| Capstone Option | Elective Credits | | Capstone Option | Elective Credits | |
| | Total | 700s | | Total | 700s |
| Thesis | 15 | 15 | Thesis | 16 | 15 |
| Seminar Paper | 21 | 16 | Seminar Paper | 18 | 16 |
| Comprehensive Examination | 24 | 18 | Comprehensive Examination | 22 | 18 |