



**EASTERN**  
CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY



ONLINE GRADUATE DIVISION

# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SPECIAL EDUCATION



The online Master of Science in Special Education from Eastern Connecticut State University (Eastern) follows a hybrid model and emphasizes school and community collaboration. The program offers 100% online asynchronous and synchronous coursework complemented by practica in your local community or school.

---

## Program Overview

Since the enactment of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA, 1975), which mandates the provision of free and appropriate public school education for students ages 3 to 21 who meet eligibility requirements, the number of students receiving services under IDEA totals 7.5 million by 2023 (15% of total public school students)\* and continues to trend upwards in number. Schools and communities need dedicated, educated professionals to meet the needs of these students, especially as there are shortages of special education educators nationwide.

With an intensive, holistic curriculum, you will learn how to navigate trends and issues related to educating exceptional students. Cultivate a deep understanding of relevant instructional strategies, behavior management techniques, and assessments in class before applying what you have learned in a practicum and capstone research project. The curriculum is designed to:

- Enhance your ability to instruct K-12 students with special needs and work with their families and other special education personnel.
- Foster skills for interagency collaboration, intervention for children with autism, special education and the arts, and many more.
- Promote strategies for inclusive education, classroom and behavior management, and assessment informed instruction.

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, Students With Disabilities, on the internet at <https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator/cgg> (visited July 12, 2023).

\* This program does not lead to an initial certificate in special education unless you are already certified in another educational area.



# Who Should Apply?

The program is an advanced degree for experienced certified teachers, teacher candidates who have completed a teaching certification program, or other school personnel with appropriate teaching experience who are seeking K-12 cross endorsement.

The M.S. in Special Education offers two plans of study:

- Cross-endorsement track is available for students who hold a teaching certification.

**New Pathway!**

- An additional track is available for students who do not have a teaching certification but have relevant teaching experience and an interest in special education coursework.

**\$750 per credit hour**

**Finish in under two (2) years**

**Flexible application deadlines**

**30 credits to complete**



## The Value of Earning a Master's Degree:

Salary Potential by Educational Attainment

**Master's Degree**

**\$90,324**

**Bachelor's Degree**

**\$77,636**

**Associate Degree**

**\$55,016**

Note: This information has been calculated by taking the median usual weekly earnings and multiplying by 52 to determine a yearly salary. Data only includes full-time wage and salary workers aged 25 and older.

Source: "Education pays, 2023," Career Outlook, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, April 2024, at <https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2024/data-on-display/education-pays.htm> (accessed May 21, 2024).

National long-term projections may not reflect local and/or short-term economic or job conditions, and do not guarantee actual job growth. Degree program options do not guarantee career or salary outcomes. Students should conduct independent research for specific employment information.

## Meet the Program Coordinators



**DR. KWANGWON LEE**

Assistant Professor, Education

Dr. Lee's research foci include parent-mediated, social communication interventions for children with autism and embedded assistive technology instruction in early childhood teacher education. His research has been published and presented globally. He earned both his Ph.D. and M.S.Ed. in Special Education from Indiana University-Bloomington.

---



**DR. TANYA MOOREHEAD**

Associate Professor, Education

Dr. Moorehead is an Assistant Professor of Special Education. Her research focuses on creating successful inclusive learning environments for all students through co-teaching and collaboration and inclusive education. She earned her Exceptional Education Ph.D. from the University of Central Florida and her Special Education M.A. from the University of Connecticut.

Dr. Moorehead is the coordinator for the Holmes Program, which involves mentoring students from underrepresented populations. She was a special education teacher for seven years and was the 2006 Bloomfield Teacher of The Year.

# Curriculum Overview



All courses are worth three (3) credit hours and are seven (7) weeks in length.

*\*Courses taken in the summer term are six (6) weeks long.*

## CORE COURSES | 18 CREDITS

### Special Education Assessment EDU 610

Learn to develop instructional objectives based on assessment data as you gain (1) knowledge of various assessment practices, and (2) skills in the assessment of learners with disabilities. This course focuses on the assessment of intelligence, reading, writing, mathematics, and social-emotional behavior.

### Special Education Methods of Instruction EDU 611

Learn various teaching methods that are utilized for exceptional learners, including challenged and gifted/talented learners as you hone techniques for identifying, adapting, and developing instructional materials. Combine these skills to develop individualized education plans (IEPs).

### Assistive/Adaptive Technology EDU 612

This course provides an overview of assistive technology. Students learn applications of low, elementary, and high technology assistive devices in the area of communication, mobility, education, recreation, vocation, independence, and rehabilitation. It provides information on methods and organizational approaches to integrating assistive technology in the classroom.

## **Evidence-Based Practices for Behavior Management in Special Education** EDU 613

Prepare to be practitioners in behavior management using principles of evidence-based practice for P-12 classroom settings. Examine various behavior management theories and strategies to build inclusive communities in your classrooms for individuals with disabilities.

## **Applying Foundational Knowledge and Applications in Special Education** EDU 630

Prepare yourself to demonstrate understanding of knowledge and applications of special education content for students with mild to moderate disabilities. Review and apply foundational knowledge in special education, such as learner characteristics and development, planning for varying learning environments, instruction and assessment, and professional roles and responsibilities for students with mild to moderate disabilities.

## **Special Education in the Arts** EDU 632

Explore the use of therapy through the arts as you examine various therapy approaches used in educational settings and current research related to individual and group therapy that incorporates play, music, and visual arts.

## **Interagency Collaboration for Students with Disabilities and their Families** EDU 634

Gain the knowledge and application of a multi-system, service provision approach for students with disabilities and their families. Specifically, you will explore strategies and barriers of interagency collaboration, services and support provided within the school and community, policies, the concept of systems of care and working with diverse populations.

Students may complete any combination of 6 credits from both elective practicum and elective course options.

## **ELECTIVE PRACTICUM EXPERIENCES | 3 TO 6 CREDITS**

### **Practicum in Local Agencies** EDU 690

This course is designed to fulfill the special education endorsement requirements issued by the Connecticut State Department of Education. You will have the opportunity to work closely with an individual with a disability(-ies) in a local agency setting while experiencing partnerships with service provider(s) from the community. Demonstrate the knowledge of special education and methods for supporting education and methods for supporting individuals with disabilities and their families in school and community environments you have gained during the program.

### **Practicum in Elementary Special Education** EDU 692

This course is designed to fulfill the special education endorsement requirements issued by the Connecticut State Department of Education. You will have the opportunity to work closely with a student with a disability(-ies) in an elementary special education setting. Demonstrate your knowledge of special education and methods for supporting students with disabilities and their families in school and community environments.

### **Practicum in Secondary Special Education** EDU 694

This course is designed to fulfill the special education endorsement requirements issued by the Connecticut State Department of Education. You will have the opportunity to work closely with a student with a disability(-ies) in a secondary special education setting. Demonstrate your knowledge of special education and methods for supporting students with disabilities and their families in school and community environments.

Students may complete any combination of 6 credits from both elective practicum and elective course options.

## ELECTIVE COURSES | 3 TO 6 CREDITS

### Strategies for Instructions to ELS EDU 619

Develop skills through an applied field experience with English Learners (ELs) complemented by practical online components. Examine the role of classroom teachers in the development of English Learners from across affective and cognitive domains. Investigate strategies for scaffolding second language acquisition with special emphasis on Sheltered Instruction at your program level.

### Intervention for Young Children with Autism EDU 620

Gain an overview of characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in young children and examine implications on childhood and later development. Explore intervention approaches & models as you study family, cultural & individual perspectives.

### Issues and Trends in Special Education EDU 680

Increase your content knowledge in current issues and trends in special education. You will be given opportunities to explore the evolution of special education, leadership practices within the field and strategies to address the needs of diverse learners across content areas. For this course, you must complete a minimum of 15 service hours in your school or community.

The culminating research project (EDU 697) will be an action research project that requires EDU 610 as a prerequisite.

## CULMINATING EXPERIENCE | 3 CREDITS

### Culminating Research Project EDU 697

Design and conduct educational research to seek answers to critical research questions in a discipline or field of inquiry. The final project is an in-depth research paper that demonstrates student ability to successfully design and conduct educational research.

# What to Expect

## Requirements for Completion

Students must earn 30 credits by successfully completing 10 courses. This includes the six (6) core courses, two (2) practica courses, one (1) elective course, and one (1) culminating experience. While many of the courses are 100% online, students must complete some courses at a local school or community agency as appropriate for the selected courses. Students must maintain a GPA of 3.0 to remain in and graduate from the program.

*\* Upon completion of the MS in Special Education and the certification tests (Connecticut Foundations of Reading Test 090 and Praxis II, Special Education: Core Knowledge and Mild to Moderate Applications 5543), candidates residing in Connecticut may apply to the state to cross-endorse to Comprehensive Special Education, K-12 (165). Candidates pursuing endorsement in other states must fulfill their state's requirements.*

## Learning Online

Eastern online graduate degree programs are designed for professionals wanting to expand their career potential while earning a comprehensive education on a schedule that fits around their lives. You can expect:

- Online courses
- Active learning
- Personalized instruction
- Expert faculty
- Flexible scheduling
- Library resources

# Admission Requirements

**PREREQUISITES:** Prerequisite course(s) in special education should be taken prior to beginning the program.

You must provide evidence of having earned a bachelor's degree with a minimum 3.0 GPA requirement. Work experience will be part of the assessment for students if their GPA is below 3.0.

- **A completed application.**
  - Includes a \$50 non-refundable application fee.
- **Résumé/CV**
  - You should submit a résumé that addresses your professional history as well as your educational and career interests.
- **Work experience**
- **Recommendations from two references.**
  - Two recommendation surveys completed by individuals knowledgeable about the applicant's abilities to complete graduate work.
- **Bachelor's degree from an approved/ accredited institution with a minimum GPA of 3.0.**
- **Official college transcript(s) for all nationally accredited colleges and universities attended.**
- **Personal/Philosophy statement, explaining your professional goals.**
  - Personal statements can be uploaded as supplemental items in the online application system.





# TOP 25

## Best Public Institutions in the North

### About Eastern

Eastern Connecticut State University is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE). Eastern engages students from diverse backgrounds in a transformative liberal arts learning experience that provides knowledge and skills to lead enriching, purposeful lives. Eastern is ranked among the top 25 public institutions in the North Region for universities, according to *U.S. News & World Report's* latest rankings.

---

### About Bisk

An added benefit of becoming a student in our online degree programs is that you will receive support from a Bisk representative. Bisk partners with leading institutions to provide the resources, expertise and technology to help institutions grow and students thrive. Bisk is passionate about supporting students and will help ensure that you have the best experience possible.

Our primary objective is to remain focused on what is best for each student. Part of the role of a Student Success representative is to:

- Help you learn about Eastern's online graduate programs and guide you through the process of completing your degree.
- Assist with the application process, including helping obtain transcripts, and provide proactive outreach to help you register for future classes.
- Supplement faculty academic advising with one-to-one guidance throughout the program.

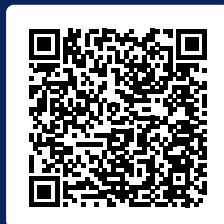


A Bisk representative will be contacting you soon to discuss program details, the application and admission process, and more.





## Discover More About the Online Master of Science in Special Education



[www.easternct.edu/graduate-division/online/programs/master-of-science-in-special-education/](http://www.easternct.edu/graduate-division/online/programs/master-of-science-in-special-education/)

**Start Your Application**

Delivered on behalf of Eastern Connecticut State University by Bisk ©2024.  
Program cost, availability, and requirements are subject to change.

v07102024