



# Graduate Programs in Special Education



**PennState**  
World Campus

**A world of possibilities.  
Online.**

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“Providing effective supports for students with disabilities requires knowledge and experience in the use of evidence-based instructional practices. This special education graduate portfolio allows professionals to learn the skills needed to support all students in achieving success in school, home, and community settings.”

—**Dr. David Lee, BCBA-D**  
**Lead Faculty in Applied Behavior Analysis**

# Graduate Programs in Special Education

Penn State shares your belief that education is an excellent way to enrich the lives of individuals with special needs. Whether you're a special education teacher, social worker, counselor, therapist, psychologist, or in another education-related role, we know that you chose your profession because of your genuine passion for helping these individuals and their families.

That's why we offer a variety of programs online to help you advance your skills to perform better in your current job or pursue a new career in the special education field. You can complete a certificate program with as few as 12 credits, or pursue a master's degree. No matter which program you

select, your courses will be taught by the same faculty who teach on Penn State's campus, and you'll receive the same support and credentials available to resident students. You'll enjoy the added convenience of studying on your own schedule, giving you the flexibility to pursue your education while remaining employed.

- › **Master of Education in Special Education**
- › **Postbaccalaureate Certificate in Educating Individuals with Autism**
- › **Graduate Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis**

“The faculty were invested in me and what I wanted to do in my career as a behavioral analyst.”

—**Jenn J., Master of Education in Special Education graduate**



# Master of Education in Special Education

Education professionals enrolled in this online program can learn evidence-based practices to support individuals who qualify for special education services. If you have a background in education or human services and are interested in learning more about working with children and youth with disabilities, this program is ideal for you. Behavior specialists, social workers, mobile therapists, educational consultants, speech pathologists, and psychologists can also benefit from this program. You can tailor your degree by focusing on one of three emphasis areas.

## Emphasis in Academic and Behavioral Supports

Designed for education professionals who want to learn skills to effectively support students with disabilities.

Topics include, but are not limited to, effectively managing behaviors, designing and delivering instruction, and developing and administering educational assessments.

## Emphasis in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)

Created for professionals who want to gain in-depth knowledge of the principles and procedures of ABA, with or without the goal of becoming a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA®). It includes 24 credits of course work that can prepare you to sit for the BCBA certification exam. Once

certified, BCBA's develop, implement, and evaluate intervention programs to promote positive behavior change.

## Emphasis in Autism

Designed to help you acquire comprehensive, evidence-based knowledge to assist in developing effective educational programming for all students with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). It includes course work on assessing individuals with ASD; developing strategies to foster social, behavioral, communicative, and academic gains; using applied behavior analysis when working with children with autism; and enhancing collaboration among individuals with ASD, their families, and their educators.

[worldcampus.psu.edu/specialed](http://worldcampus.psu.edu/specialed)

# M.Ed. in Special Education Curriculum

The Master of Education in Special Education requires you to complete 33 credits. You will complete the core and capstone courses and choose an area of emphasis to round out your program of study.

## **Required Courses (9 credits)**

- › Teaching Learners with Disabilities in Inclusive Settings
- › Introduction to Research in Special Education
- › Capstone Seminar in Special Education

## **Emphasis in Academic and Behavioral Supports (24 credits)**

- › Learning Processes in Relation to Educational Practices
- › Principles of Instructional Leadership
- › Assistive Technology for General Education Teachers
- › Evidence-Based Student, Classroom, and School-Wide Behavior Supports
- › Design and Delivery of Evidence-Based Instruction for Learners with Special Needs
- › Evidence-Based Assessment for Teaching Learners with Special Needs
- › Current Issues in Special Education
- › Elective

## **Emphasis in Applied Behavior Analysis (24 credits)**

- › Current Issues in Special Education
- › Foundations of Applied Behavior Analysis
- › Single-Case Research
- › Concepts and Principles of Applied Behavior Analysis
- › Assessment of Behavior in Contexts
- › Behavioral Change Procedures and Management I
- › Behavioral Change Procedures and Management II
- › Ethical Considerations for Special Education Populations

## **Emphasis in Autism (24 credits)**

- › Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorders
- › Autism and Applied Behavior Analysis
- › Communication and Social Competence
- › Assessment and Curriculum
- › Current Issues in Special Education
- › Electives at the 500 or 800 level

# Postbaccalaureate Certificate in Educating Individuals with Autism

This online certificate program can provide you with advanced training in the area of autism spectrum disorders.

## **Required Courses (12 credits)**

- › Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorders
- › Autism and Applied Behavior Analysis
- › Communication and Social Competence
- › Assessment and Curriculum



“As soon as I started the program, I felt like a part of Penn State. The connection I had with my professors and the feedback I received made me feel like they were interested in my growth as a student and what I was learning.”

—Theoni M., Master of Education in Special Education graduate



# Graduate Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis

This 21-credit online graduate certificate is well suited for you if you have a background in education, psychology, or human services and are interested in becoming a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). In addition, this program may be useful if you have an interest in learning about interventions to produce lasting change in behavior.

The curriculum is designed to provide you with advanced knowledge in the field of applied behavior analysis and to prepare you to sit for the BCBA certification examination sponsored by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB).

If your goal is to pursue BCBA certification, please consult with the BACB for additional qualifying information, including specific degree and experience requirements.

## Required Courses (21 credits)

- › Foundations of Applied Behavior Analysis
- › Single Case-Research
- › Concepts and Principles of Applied Behavior Analysis
- › Assessment of Behavior in Contexts
- › Behavioral Change Procedures and Management I
- › Behavioral Change Procedures and Management II
- › Ethical Considerations for Special Education Populations







# Why Penn State?

## Online Delivery Experience — Penn State World Campus

In 1892, Penn State founded one of the nation's first correspondence courses. Over the years, our distance education options have evolved to include technology-enhanced learning experiences, culminating in the foundation of Penn State World Campus in 1998. As a pioneer in distance learning, we have significant experience in understanding the needs of off-campus students.

### **You can experience courses that are:**

- › designed around best practices in online delivery
- › taught by faculty with experience teaching in an online environment
- › created using technology to support successful learning outcomes, not just convenience

## Faculty Expertise

Penn State's College of Education is consistently ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the top U.S. colleges and universities that

prepare teachers. And the same industry-respected faculty who teach on campus teach our online courses. The online environment of the special education programs allows you to interact frequently with your faculty, providing even greater opportunities to share insights and reinforce what you are learning. And, with our global learning community of adult learners exchanging ideas and experiences, you will be as close to the face-to-face experience as possible.

## An Exceptional Student/Alumni Body

Whether you take our courses online or in a traditional classroom, you become a "Penn Stater" who is part of:

- › an institution with more than 150 years of excellence in teaching, research, and service
- › a global community of exceptional adult learners from all 50 states, more than 40 countries, and 7 continents
- › a proud worldwide network of more than 800,000 alumni

# Begin Your Application Today

## Getting Started

Visit: [worldcampus.psu.edu/special](http://worldcampus.psu.edu/special)

Click on “How to Apply.”

Review the prerequisites and required application materials.



## Did You Know?

- › Penn State credits and degrees earned online are identical to those earned on campus, with no mention of distance or online education.
- › Penn State’s College of Education is regularly ranked among the nation’s best graduate schools by *U.S. News & World Report*.
- › Our online courses involve frequent interactions between students and with Penn State faculty.

# Contact Us

## Admissions Questions

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