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PennState
World Campus

Graduate Programs
in Special Education

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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*



Photo by Trish Hummer

Graduate Programs for Educators 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 teacher, social worker, counselor, therapist, or psychologist, or are 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 Penn State offers a variety of programs online through World Campus to help you further 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 on-campus 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
- Special Education Supervisory Program for PDE Certification
- Postbaccalaureate Certificate in Educating Individuals with Autism
- Graduate Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis
- Online ABA Practicum



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.

Choose from one of the following emphasis areas:

Emphasis in Academic and Behavioral Supports

This emphasis is designed for educational 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)

This emphasis is 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 an 18-credit Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB®)-verified

course sequence and can prepare you to sit for the BCBA certification exam. Educational professionals certified as BCBAAs develop, implement, and evaluate programs to promote positive behavior change in individuals with special needs.

Emphasis in Autism

The emphasis in autism is 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 educators.

worldcampus.psu.edu/specialed

M.Ed. in Special Education Curriculum

The Master of Education in Special Education requires you to complete 32 to 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 (3 credits)

Introduction to Research in Special Education (3 credits)

Capstone Seminar in Special Education (3 credits)

Emphasis in Academic and Behavioral Supports (24 credits)

Learning Processes in Relation to Educational Practices (3 credits)

Principles of Instructional Supervision (3 credits)

Assistive Technology for General Education Teachers (3 credits)

Evidence-Based Student, Classroom, and School-wide Behavior Supports (3 credits)

Design and Delivery of Evidence-Based Instruction for Learners with Special Needs (3 credits)

Evidence-Based Assessment for Teaching Learners with Special Needs (3 credits)

Current Issues in Special Education (3 credits)

Elective (3 credits)

Emphasis in Applied Behavior Analysis (24 credits)

Applied Behavior Analysis for Special Education: Basic Principles I (4 credits)

Applied Behavior Analysis for Special Education: Basic Principles II (4 credits)

Applied Behavior Analysis for Special Education: Extended Applications I (4 credits)

Applied Behavior Analysis for Special Education: Extended Applications II (3 credits)

Ethical Considerations for Special Education Populations (3 credits)

Current Issues in Special Education (3 credits)

Elective (3 credits)

Emphasis in Autism (23–24 credits)

Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorders (3 credits)

Autism and Applied Behavior Analysis (3 credits)

Communication and Social Competence (3 credits)

Assessment and Curriculum (3 credits)

Current Issues in Special Education (3 credits)

Electives at the 500 or 800 level (8 or 9 credits)

Special Education Supervisory Program for PDE Certification

The certificate program is not accepting new students at this time.

This online graduate-level program prepares students for certification by the Pennsylvania Department of Education as a supervisor of special education, and can help you advance in your role as a special education professional.

The five-course sequence will include topics such as principles of instructional supervision, and how to administer and supervise educational programs for exceptional children. You are required to complete an internship that may be at your school district (public or private) with approval from your employer and Penn State faculty adviser.



Required Courses (15 credits)

Principles of Instructional Supervision
(3 credits)

Administration and Supervision of
Educational Programs for Exceptional
Children (3 credits)

Internship in Special Education Supervision
(3 credits)

Individual Studies (3 credits)

Field experience course assigned by an
adviser at admission (3 credits)

Upon satisfactory completion of this course work and internship, attainment and verification of five years of professional school experience in special education, and satisfactory achievement on assessments prescribed by PDE (currently Praxis test 0411 or 5411), students will be recommended for PDE certification as a supervisor of special education by the dean of the Penn State College of Education.

To learn more about any of our special education programs, visit:

worldcampus.psu.edu/specialed

Postbaccalaureate Certificate in Educating Individuals with Autism

This online certificate program can provide you with advanced training in the area of autism spectrum disorders. The curriculum covers an introduction to autism spectrum disorders, employing the principles and procedures of applied behavior analysis, strategies for improving communication and social competence, and an overview of curriculum and assessment for individuals with autism.

Required Courses (12 credits)

Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorders
(3 credits)

Autism and Applied Behavior Analysis
(3 credits)

Communication and Social Competence
(3 credits)

Assessment and Curriculum (3 credits)



Graduate Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis

This 18-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. In addition, this program may also be useful if you have an interest in learning about interventions to produce lasting change in behavior.

The five-course sequence is verified by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board, Inc.[®], (BACB[®]) and 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.

The program consists of four online courses, plus a fifth course that is a face-to-face, weeklong seminar held every August at Penn State University Park in conjunction with the National Autism Conference.

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 (18 credits)

Applied Behavior Analysis for Special Education: Basic Principles I (4 credits)

Applied Behavior Analysis for Special Education: Basic Principles II (4 credits)

Applied Behavior Analysis for Special Education: Extended Applications I (4 credits)

Applied Behavior Analysis for Special Education: Extended Applications II (3 credits)

Ethical Considerations for Special Education Populations (3 credits)



Online ABA Practicum

Penn State World Campus offers a BACB–approved online Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis to help you gain experience in developing, implementing, and evaluating techniques that produce positive behavioral change while you accrue the supervised experience hours required to sit for the BACB’s certification exam. A Penn State instructor with BCBA certification will supervise your fieldwork from a distance via video sharing and online conferencing.

In addition to accruing your supervised fieldwork hours, you will complete practical assignments and attend weekly online course meetings designed to support your understanding of the ABA content, to provide for collaboration and discussion with peers, and to hone your study skills for the BACB’s certification exam.

For the latest information regarding the applied behavior analysis programs, visit:

worldcampus.psu.edu/aba



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:

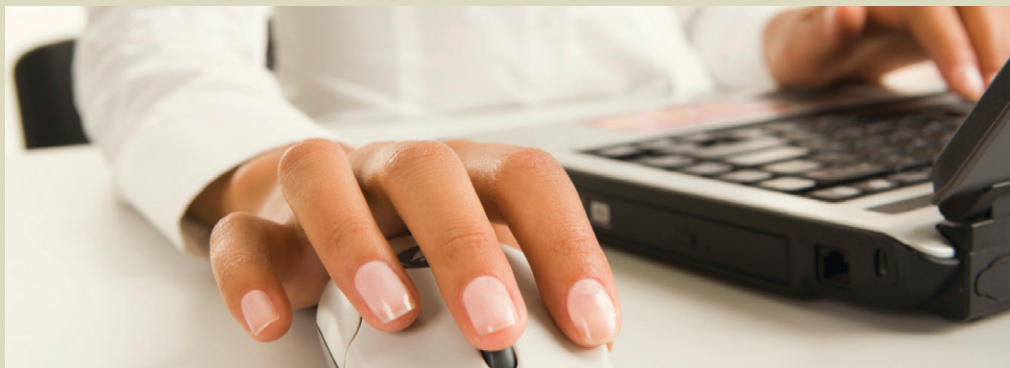
- an institution with more than 150 years of excellence in teaching, research, and service
- a global community of exceptional adult learners from all 50 states, more than 40 countries, and 7 continents
- a proud worldwide network of more than 645,000 alumni and, upon your graduation, you can choose to join the largest alumni association in the world, with more than 177,000 members



Begin Your Application Today

Getting Started

1. Visit worldcampus.psu.edu/specialed.
2. Click on your program of interest.
3. Click on “How to Apply.”
4. Review the prerequisites and required application materials.



For more information about these application materials, visit:

worldcampus.psu.edu/specialed

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.
- ▶ Our online courses involve frequent interactions between students and with Penn State faculty.
- ▶ Penn State’s College of Education is regularly ranked among the nation’s best graduate schools by *U.S. News & World Report*.

For More Information

Contact Us

pennstateonline@psu.edu

worldcampus.psu.edu

800-252-3592 (toll free within the United States)

814-865-5403 (local and international)

814-865-3290 Fax

Student Services Hours

(inquiries and registration)

8:00 a.m.–9:30 p.m. ET Monday–Thursday

8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. ET Friday

Closed Saturday and Sunday

Admissions Counseling Hours

8:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m. ET Monday–Thursday

8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. ET Friday

Closed Saturday and Sunday



Penn State World Campus

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World Campus

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