



Master's Degree Handbook

Department Chair

Joseph C. Gagnon, Ph.D.

josephgagnon@fau.edu

Department Faculty

Sharon M. Darling, Ph.D.

sdarlin4@fau.edu

Charles Dukes, Ed.D., Ph.D.

cdukes@fau.edu

Lisa Finnegan, Ph.D.

lfinnegan@fau.edu

James Forgan, Ph.D.

jforgan@fau.edu

Katie Miller, Ph.D.

millerk@fau.edu

Rangasamy Ramasamy, Ph.D.

rmasam@fau.edu

Jack Scott, Ph.D., BCBA-D

jscott@fau.edu

Department Instructors

Gwendolyn Carey, Ed.D.

gcarey@fau.edu

Elisa Cruz, Ed.D., BCBA-D

ecruz4@fau.edu

Angelica Downey, Ed.D.

downeya@fau.edu

Peggy Goldstein, Ed.D.

pgoldsetin@fau.edu

Brianna Miller, Ed.D.

bjosep28@fau.edu

Department Staff

Mrs. Ellen Ismalon

eismalon@fau.edu

Mae Posadas, PMP

posadasm@fau.edu

Welcome to Your Master's Program!

The Department of Special Education (DSE) at Florida Atlantic University (FAU) offers a fully online master's in special education (M.Ed.) that is carefully crafted to meet the needs of a variety of professionals seeking to expand their knowledge of the field of special education. We focus on preparing highly qualified professional educators and personnel to work with special populations.

The master's program is a fully online 36-39 credit-graduate degree program that provides students with the knowledge and skills for working with students with disabilities. Full-time students may complete this degree program within 16-24 months. The intensive, fast-track special education coursework is designed to allow teachers, administrators, or related field personnel to concentrate in various special education fields.

Students completing our master's in special education complete courses comprising (a) Special Education Core, (b) Research and Statistics Core (not for the ABA concentration), and (c) courses in one or more of four concentration areas. Concentration areas include Applied Behavior Analysis, Educational Leadership, Educational Psychology, and Special Education.

Special Education Core

The Special Education Core includes courses designed to broaden understanding of the interventions and strategies for working with populations with specific learning or behavioral needs. The required core courses are:

- EEX 5622 Enhancing Collaborations between Schools, Communities, and Families of Students with Special Needs
- EEX 6225 Assessing Students with Disabilities
- EEX 6320 Program Evaluation of Special Education Programs, Supports, and Services
- EEX 6480 Instructional Design in Special Education, and
- EEX 6515 Special Education Leadership, Policy, and Ethics

Research and Statistics Core

The Research and Statistics Core provides a foundation for examining, designing, and understanding educational research. The required research and statistics courses are:

- STA 6113 Educational Statistics
- EDF 6481 Educational Research

Note, this core is not required for students pursuing the ABA concentration.

Concentration Areas

Concentration areas offer preparation in a specific study area(s) or preparation for a specific teaching endorsement or certification area.

Applied Behavior Analysis

The Applied Behavior Analysis concentration prepares students for the certification exam administered by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board.

The required courses for this concentration are:

- EEX 5612 Applied Behavior Analysis
- EEX 6602 Behavior Change and Management Strategies
- EEX 6609 Behavior Analytic Teaching
- EEX 6615 Behavior Assessment and Intervention Selection
- EEX 7618 Advanced Applied Behavior Analysis
- EEX 6747 Ethics in ABA
- EEX 6626 Behavior Analytic Supervision & Management

Autism Spectrum Disorder

The Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) concentration prepares teachers to work

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Academic Progression

Graduate students at FAU must maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA. The university will not confer degrees on graduate students with a cumulative GPA of less than 3.00. Policies on academic standing for graduate students can be found in the catalog [here](#). Specifically, review the description of the [Academic Progression Plan](#).

Critical Assignments and Florida Educator Accomplished Practices

Critical Assignments (CAs) are embedded into many of the graduate courses in the master's degree. These assignments are intended to allow students to demonstrate proficiency in department, state, and professional personnel preparation competencies (e.g., Florida DOE Educator Accomplished Practices (EAPs), CAEP competencies, ITDS competencies). Due to the nature of these assignments, students must pass the CA to receive a passing grade in these courses.

Department of Special Education Policy on Critical Assignments

Graduate students must earn a minimum grade of 83% of the points allotted for a Critical Assignment to receive a minimum grade of B in a course. In other words, a student cannot "pass" the course with a B without successfully completing the Critical Assignment.

Remediation Policy for Critical Assignments. If a student is passing the course with a B grade but has failed to pass the Critical Assignment with a minimum of 83% of the possible points, the student will receive an "INC" in the course until the Critical Assignment is successfully redone. Only one attempt is allowed. The instructor will determine the conditions and time frame for the resubmission of the assignment. However, the second attempt must be completed within one semester. Upon successfully completing the re-submitted assignment, the student will receive a B grade.

the student will not be allowed to resubmit the Critical Assignment. The student will need to repeat the course and the Critical Assignment.

Watermark (LiveText). The College of Education utilizes Watermark (LiveText) to assess student competency and progress in their program of study, and to comply with program approval /accreditation all in one place. Live Text can also be used by students to track their performance across courses. All students enrolled in any course with a critical assignment must have an active Watermark (LiveText) account within the first four (4) weeks of the full semester course, or within the first three (3) weeks of summer or fast-track session. Learn more about purchasing Live Text [here](#).

Community of Learners Events

The department strives to foster a community of learners within this online degree program. As such, annually, we will host a community of learner events intended to foster engagement and exploration of special education-related content, share values and beliefs, and actively engage in learning from each other. Students are highly encouraged to attend these events, as they are also an opportunity to connect with fellow learners and faculty outside the confines of the course requirements.

Degree Completion Requirements

To complete the master's degree in special education, each student must:

1. Meet all College and University graduation requirements.
2. Earn grades of B or higher in all courses (Students must repeat any courses in which a grade of B- or below is earned. A course may only be repeated once.).
3. Maintain continuous enrollment in the University (1 credit per academic year). FAU requires a re-application (forms and fees) to the University if there is a break in enrollment.
4. Complete the required number of hours specified in the student's Program of Study (POS).

Degree Costs and Financial Assistance

Tuition and Fees

The tuition costs at FAU are among the lowest in the nation. Thus, students can earn their master's degree for less than \$14K in tuition costs. Full details about tuition rates can be found [here](#). The Department has a limited number of competitive graduate research assistantships (GRA) available to assist with tuition costs. Students should contact their faculty advisor or the department to learn more.

Financial Assistance

Students in all stages of their academic careers may be eligible for financial aid. While the process is roughly the same for each kind of student, sometimes there are unique requirements. Students are strongly encouraged to meet with an FAU Financial Aid Advisor to get more information on loans, grants, and scholarships to help finance their master's program. FAU's Office of Financial Assistance is there to help you navigate the financial aid process. Learn more [here](#).

Appendix A

Program Admission Requirements

Admission Requirements

Applicants to the Department of Special Education must follow the procedures for graduate admissions. Forms, policies, and procedures for the FAU Graduate College can be found at the following website:
<http://wise.fau.edu/graduate/>.

Domestic applicants must:

1. Meet College and University requirements.
2. Hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education.
3. Have earned an undergraduate Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0. If GPA is below 3.0, applicants may submit one letter of recommendation from an employer in an education-related field or a current/former university instructor; and,
4. Provide a personal statement not exceeding three double-spaced pages, indicating the applicant's reasons for pursuing a master's degree and career goals.

International applicants must:

1. Meet College and University requirements.
2. hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education.
3. Have earned an undergraduate Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0. If GPA is below 3.0, applicants may submit one letter of recommendation from an employer in an education-related field or a current/former