Special Education, Rehabilitation, and Counseling - MEd, MS, EdS, PhD

Degree Programs

- Clinical Mental Health Counseling (http://bulletin.auburn.edu/thegraduateschool/graduatedegreesoffered/counseloreducation_counselingpsychology/clinicalmentalhealthcounseling)
- Counselor Education (http://bulletin.auburn.edu/thegraduateschool/graduatedegreesoffered/counseloreducation_counselingpsychology/counselingeducation)
- Counseling Psychology (http://bulletin.auburn.edu/thegraduateschool/graduatedegreesoffered/counseloreducation_counselingpsychology/counselingpsychology)
- Collaborative Teacher Special Education, K-12 (http://bulletin.auburn.edu/thegraduateschool/graduatedegreesoffered/specialeducationrehabilitationandcounseling_major/specialeducationcollaborative)
- Early Childhood/Elementary Special Education, P-6 (http://bulletin.auburn.edu/thegraduateschool/graduatedegreesoffered/specialeducationrehabilitationandcounseling_major/specialeducationearlychildhood)
- Rehabilitation and Special Education (http://bulletin.auburn.edu/thegraduateschool/graduatedegreesoffered/specialeducationrehabilitationandcounseling_major/rehabilitationandspecialeducation)
- Rehabilitation Counseling (http://bulletin.auburn.edu/thegraduateschool/graduatedegreesoffered/specialeducationrehabilitationandcounseling_major/rehabilitationcounseling)
- School Counseling (http://bulletin.auburn.edu/thegraduateschool/graduatedegreesoffered/counseloreducation_counselingpsychology/schoolcounseling)

Graduate Certificates

- Transition Specialist (http://bulletin.auburn.edu/thegraduateschool/graduatedegreesoffered/specialeducationrehabilitationandcounseling_major/transitionspecialist_cert)
- Intervention for Students with Autism and Developmental Disabilities (http://bulletin.auburn.edu/thegraduateschool/graduatedegreesoffered/specialeducationrehabilitationandcounseling_major/interventionforstudent_cert)
- Rehabilitation Leadership and Management (http://bulletin.auburn.edu/thegraduateschool/graduatedegreesoffered/specialeducationrehabilitationandcounseling_major/rehabilitationleadershipandmanagement_cert)

The Department of Special Education, Rehabilitation, and Counseling offers graduate certificates and graduate degree programs leading to the master of education (certification option), master of science, specialist in education, and doctor of philosophy. All graduate educator preparation programs are approved by the Alabama State Board of Education (ALSBE). Auburn University's College of Education is accredited through the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). Master's and doctoral programs in counselor education are accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). The master's and doctoral programs in counseling psychology are accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA).

Master's Degree Programs (MEd/MS)

Application to the master’s programs includes: meeting Graduate School requirements for admission, submission of the departmental application and all undergraduate transcripts, a GPA of at least a 2.75 on undergraduate coursework, and three reference forms.

Counselor Education (Clinical Mental Health Counseling, School Counseling, Rehabilitation Counseling).

Additional admission requirements for the school counseling program include a clear background check and a passing score on each of the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics).

Students in all master’s-level counseling programs must pass a comprehensive graduation exam which currently consists of the Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination (CPCE) and complete other assigned work and/ or examinations designed to evaluate students’ skills in areas related to program goals. All master’s programs require extensive extramural practicum and internships in placements related to the area of professional preparation. Students in the rehabilitation counseling program are required to complete the Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) Examination, and students in all other counseling master’s programs are provided the opportunity to complete the National Counselor Examination (NCE).
Students in the school counseling program must earn a passing score on the appropriate Praxis II subject assessment and may be subject to other components of the State testing program depending on prior professional educator certification. In accordance with State regulations, effective for students unconditionally admitted to the school counseling certification program prior to July 1, 2017, a minimum GPA of 3.00 is required on all courses used to meet master's-level certification program requirements. Effective for students unconditionally admitted to certification programs July 1, 2017 and after, a minimum GPA of 3.25 will be required on all courses used to meet master's-level certification program requirements.

Special Education (Early Childhood/Elementary Special Education, P-6; Collaborative Teacher Special Education, K-12)

Master of education (MEd) degree programs in special education include both alternative and traditional certification options. Alternative MEd certification programs offer qualified students who hold non-teaching baccalaureate degrees a route to initial teacher certification while simultaneously earning a master's degree. Admission requirements for the alternative and traditional master's programs include a clear background check.

Additional admission requirements for the alternative master's programs in special education include a passing score on each of the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics), the appropriate Praxis II subject assessment, and a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with a minimum GPA of 2.75 overall or a master's or higher degree with a GPA of at least 3.0. This GPA must be documented on the official transcript of the degree granting institution and must be the GPA that was used as the basis for granting the degree, not a GPA that includes post-degree courses.

Additional admission requirements for the traditional master's programs in special education include a valid bachelor's level professional educator certificate in a teaching field and may include additional certification tests.

Degree requirements for master's-level special education programs are in compliance with regulations established by the ALSBE and include a written comprehensive exam as well as a passing score on the appropriate Praxis II assessment for alternative master's students and traditional master's students with prior certification in a teaching field other than special education. In accordance with State regulations, effective for students unconditionally admitted to certification programs prior to July 1, 2017, a minimum GPA of 3.00 is required on all courses used to meet master's-level certification program requirements. Effective for students unconditionally admitted to certification programs July 1, 2017 and after, a minimum 3.25 GPA will be required on all courses used to meet master's-level certification program requirements.

Specialist in Education Degree Program (EdS)

Applicants to the EdS program in special education collaborative teacher must satisfy the Graduate School’s admission requirements. Departmental admission requirements include a master’s degree from an accredited college or university, academic good standing at the institution last attended, competitive GRE scores, three reference forms, current resume, a valid master’s-level professional educator certificate in special education, clear background check, and approval by the department. In some cases, depending on prior level certification, additional certification tests may be required.

Degree requirements for specialist-level teacher certification programs are in compliance with regulations established by the ALSBE. Specialist programs include a minimum of 30 semester hours beyond the master’s degree. Additional requirements include satisfactory completion of a field project and a written comprehensive exam.

In accordance with State regulations, effective for students unconditionally admitted prior to July 1, 2017, a minimum GPA of 3.25 is required on all courses used to meet specialist-level certification program requirements. Effective for students unconditionally admitted July 1, 2017 and after, a minimum GPA of 3.50 will be required on all courses used to meet specialist-level certification program requirements.

Master’s- and Specialist-Level Certification

Individuals completing State-approved master's-level special education certification programs are eligible to apply for Alabama Class A certification; individuals completing State-approved specialist-level special education certification programs are eligible to apply for Alabama Class AA certification. Effective September 1, 2018, the Alabama State Board of Education will require an acceptable score on the edTPA for initial certification in a teaching field. This certification requirement applies to individuals completing alternative master's programs. Individuals seeking certification in states other than Alabama are responsible for contacting those state certification offices to obtain their application form and requirements. The State of Alabama signs the National Association of State Directors of Education and Certification (NASDTEC) Interstate Agreement which facilitates the applications of program graduates when they apply for certification in other states.
**Doctoral Degree Programs (PhD)**

Doctoral programs are offered in counseling psychology, counselor education, and special education.

Applicants to the PhD programs must satisfy the Graduate School's admission requirements. Counselor education applicants must have completed an approved master's degree program prior to enrollment, preferably from a CACREP accredited master's program requiring 60 credit hours. Counseling psychology applicants may apply with a bachelor's degree, some graduate coursework, a master's degree, or a doctoral degree (the latter in the case of re-specialization). Special education applicants must have completed three years of direct teaching of students with disabilities.

The number of hours required for the three doctoral programs varies and within each program is dependent on previous graduate work, ranging from 61-109 hours. Research methods, statistics, and foundations of education are components of all doctoral programs. Doctoral students must register for at least 10 hours of dissertation credit while completing a dissertation.

**Graduate Certificates**

Graduate certificates are offered in Transition Specialist and Intervention for Students with Autism and Developmental Disabilities.

**Online Learning Graduate Programs and Courses**

The Department of Special Education, Rehabilitation, and Counseling offers the Special Education and Rehabilitation Counseling graduate programs through online learning as well as through residential study.

**Additional information**

Detailed admission and program requirements for the department's multiple areas of graduate study are available on the College of Education's website, Academics (http://www.education.auburn.edu/academics/).