**Autism spectrum disorder and intelleCtual disabilities program**

**Master of Arts (M.A.) Degree**

**DEGREE INFORMATION**

**Program Admission Deadlines:**

**Spring Cohort:** October 15

**Minimum Total Hours:** 33

**Program Level:** Masters

**CIP Code:** 13.1013

**Dept. Code:** EDS

**Program (Major/College):** ASD/ED

**Approved** 2011

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**College:** Education

**Department:** Teaching and Learning

**Contact Information:** [www.grad.usf.edu](http://www.grad.usf.edu)

**PROGRAM INFORMATION**

**Program Description**

The purpose of this online Master’s program is to prepare teachers to be highly qualified and provide access to the general curriculum in least restrictive school environments to students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Intellectual Disabilities (InD).

**Accreditation:**

The Master of Arts in ASD and InD meets the accreditation standards required by the College of Education, University of South Florida. The curriculum in the program is aligned with the conceptual framework of the College of Education and meets the specific standards of the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

**Major Research Areas**

The program benefits the university, local community and the state can be summarized in two ways. In a **quantitative** way, the program meets the need of preparing effective teachers to work with the growing number of students in general and special education who are identified as having ASD and/or InD labels. This is demonstrated through the critical shortage of data at a national and state level and also in the surveys of local school districts to USF. In a **qualitative** way, the program meets the need to prepare effective teachers to work with this group of students that represents a paradigmatic shift in where and how these students learn. Students with ASD and/or InD labels need meaningful access to general education curriculum and their typically developing peers and this program meets this need.

**ADMISSION INFORMATION**

Must meet University requirements (see Graduate Admissions) as well as requirements listed below.

**Program Admission Requirements**

* An earned baccalaureate degree in education or a related field that has a relationship with autism and/or intellectual disabilities from a regionally accredited college of university.
* Scholastic evidence to successfully perform in the academic program, as indicated by one of the following:
  + An earned graduate degree from a regionally accredited college or university, or
  + An undergraduate GPA of 3.00 or higher in all work attempted while registered as an upper division student working for a baccalaureate degree, or
  + A preferred GRE Verbal score of 520 or higher and Quantitative score of 480 or higher, and an Analytical Writing score of 3.5 or higher, or
  + Completion of 9 hours of specified graduate course work in special education with a GPA of 3.00 or higher, and the endorsement of a Special Education faculty member.
* A letter of application that addresses why the candidate desires to pursue a master’s degree in ASD and InD.
* At least two (2) letters of recommendation from persons who have seen the candidate teach and/or work with children and youth who have labels of ASD and/or InD.

**Graduation Requirements: Portfolio System**

The Master’s Portfolio System is a means through which each master’s level student demonstrates his/her competency in the “best practices” of special education. Commensurate with the belief that the merging of research and practice is desirable and beneficial; the Department of Teaching and Learning has identified eight areas in which students are required to demonstrate their competency:

* Professional and personal self-awareness
* Assessment of exception students
* Behavior management
* Classroom instruction
* Collaboration
* Knowledge of the professional literature
* Research in critical areas such as child development, learning and teaching
* Professional development

The department has also developed a list of suggested artifacts through which students can document their competency in each area.

Students should meet with their advisor to discuss and plan their individualized portfolio. A copy of the Master’s Portfolio System complete with policies and procedures, as well as suggested artifacts, is available with the Program Coordinator.

Each student will be required to present his/her individualized portfolio to the Portfolio Review Committee in the Department of Teaching and Learning upon completion of their program. This presentation will be the master’s comprehensive exam. A comprehensive exam is required of all master’s level students in the College of Education.

**DEGREE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

**Total Minimum Program Hours - 33 hours**

**Required Courses:**

**Process Core Requirement – 9 hours**

EDF 6481 3 Foundations of Educational Research

2 3 in Special Education

3 : A Pleuralistic Perspective

**Content Specialization\* - 24 hours minimum**

(\**Note: Field Experience (15-25 hours) is to be included as part of the Content Specialization coursework.)*

EBD 6246 3 Educating Students with Autism

EEX 6619 3 Positive Behavior Support Low Incid. Intellectual Disab. & ASD

EEX 6767 3 Assistive Technology For Students With Low Incidence

3 of Individuals with Low Incidence Intellectual Disabilities and ASD

3 and Career Planning for Students with Low Incidence Disabilities

EEX 6476 3 Curriculum & Instruction for Students with Low Incidence Disabilities

EEX 6939 3 Advanced Seminar: Paradigms, Practices, and Policies in Special Education

EEX 6943 3 Practicum in Exceptional Student Education

**Additional requirements for Plan III ( individuals who do not hold a degree in education)**

**Co/Prerequisites (0-14 hours depending on previous coursework) :**

EEX 6025 3 Trends and Issues in Special Education

EDF 6432 3 Foundations of Measurement

One of the following:

EDF 6211 3 Psychological Foundations of Education

EDF 6215 4 Learning Principles Applied to Instruction

One of the following:

EDF 6606 4 Socio-Economic Foundations of American Education

EDF 6517 4 Historical Foundations of American Education

**Thesis**

This is a non-thesis program

**Comprehensive Exam**

A portfolio project is required to fulfill the comprehensive examination requirement and is completed in the final semester of matriculation in the program

**COURSES**

See [http://www.ugs.usf.edu/course-inventory/](http://www.ugs.usf.edu/sab/sabs.cfm)