**Special Education, Gifted program**

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

**DEGREE INFORMATION**

**Program Admission Deadlines:**

**Fall:**  February 15

**Spring:** October 15

Summer: February 15

**Minimum Total Hours:** 36

**Program Level:** Masters

**CIP Code:** 13.1004

**Dept. Code:** EDS

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

**Approved:** 1966

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**College:** Education

**Department:** Teaching and Learning

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

**PROGRAM INFORMATION**

**Program Description**

The Master’s Program in Gifted Education (Plan I) provides advanced training for certified teachers to work with gifted and talented students and with other teachers on a consultant or collaborative basis. The courses for this program are offered through an on-line format, though some courses may be taken on campus. Emphasis is placed on developing specific skills in identification of gifted students; focusing on the characteristics and needs of special populations; assessing students’ cognitive and affective strengths; modifying educational programs to develop gifted students’ potential; and consulting with gifted students, their families, and teachers. This Program qualifies students for the State of Florida Endorsement in Gifted Education.

After admission to a program, the candidate and the department advisor together chart a program of study incorporating program requirements. Courses stress field based experiences. Students provide their own transportation to practicum sites in K-12 education settings. The practicum experience requires candidates to access assessment information about K-12 students in their school setting, including performance on individualized intelligence tests, achievement tests, and educational programs (EPs). Practicum coursework also requires candidates to conduct extended projects focused on the development and educational progress of K-12 gifted students. Employment in a K-12 classroom as a licensed educator is required to successfully complete program coursework. The Program also incorporates coursework in Instructional Technology, and Teacher Leadership. Electives lead to the completion of a graduate certificate in Teacher Leadership, Instructional Technology, or Autism Spectrum Disorders.

**Accreditation**

Accredited by the Commission on Colleges and Schools of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Natioanl Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, and the Florida Department of Education

**Plan III:** Inactive

**ADMISSION INFORMATION**

**Program Admission Requirements**

For admission, all programs require earned degrees from regionally accredited institutions or an international equivalent.

Admissions Requirements include the following:

* An earned bachelor’s degree or its equivalent from a regionally accredited college or university
* An undergraduate GPA of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale as an upper division student in a baccalaureate degree

 OR the following GRE preferred scores:

* + Verbal: 550 or Analytical Writing: 3.5
	+ Quantitative: 520
* Two letters of recommendation from administrators familiar with applicant’s professional teaching experience and expertise that verify applicant’s K-12 employment status
* A written statement of intent to pursue degree in gifted education, including applicant’s professional goals
* Copy of professional teaching certificate (not a temporary certificate)
* Evidence that applicant currently holds a teaching position in a K-12 setting

All materials should be forwarded to Heather Van Allen athvallen@usf.eduor to Department of Teaching and Learning, Gifted Education Admissions, EDU 105, College of Education, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL 33620

**International Students**

Applicants whose native language is not English or who have not earned a degree in the United States must also submit TOEFL scores earned within two (2) years of the desired term of entry. A minimum total score of 79 on the internet‐based test, or 550 on the paper‐based test, are required. Applications submitted with TOEFL scores that do not meet the minimum requirements will be denied. The TOEFL requirement may be waived if the applicant meets one of the following conditions:

* The applicant’s native language is English, or
* Has scored 153 or higher on the GRE Verbal Test, or
* Has earned a college degree at a U.S. institution of higher learning, or
* Has earned a college degree from an institution whose language of instruction is English (must be noted on the transcript), or
* Has scored 6.5 on International English Language Testing System (IELTS) <http://www.ielts.org/>

**DEGREE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

**Total Minimum Program Hours**  **36 hours**

Core requirements – 9 hours minimum

Concentration – 18 hours minimum

Electives – 9 hours minimum

**Core Requirements - 9 hours**

EDF 6481 Foundations of Educational Research 3

EDE 6486 3 Teacher Research for Student Learning

Instructional Technology: Any 1 of the following:

EME 6207 3 Web Design

EME 6208 3 Interactive Media

EME 7458 3 Research in Distance Learning

EME 6053 3 Internet in Education

**Concentration Requirements 18 hours minimum**

EGI 5051 3 Nature and Needs of the Gifted

EGI 5307 3 Theory and Development of Creativity

EGI 6232 3 Advanced Educational Strategies for Teaching the Gifted

EGI 6415 3 Seminar in Special Populations of the Gifted

EGI 6416 3 Consultation, Counseling, and Guidance of the Gifted

EGI 6943 3-6 Supervised Practicum in Gifted Education

**Electives - 9 hours minimum**

Electives (9-12 hours) in

Teacher Leadership (9 hours),

Instructional Technology (FL Digital/Virtual Educator, Distance Learning, or Web Design) (9 hours), or

Autism Spectrum Disorders\* (12 hours/requires only 3 hours of Supervised Practicum EGI 6943).

**Comprehensive Examination (Portfolio)**

In lieu of a comprehensive examination, candidates will take the Praxis II Exam in Gifted Education and earn a score of 160/200 (80%) to pass. Candidates may take the exam after completing a minimum of 15 hours of coursework (EGI 5051, EGI 5307, EGI 6936, EGI 6415, EGI 6232).

**COURSES**

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