The Special Education Program offers graduate coursework leading to a Master of Science or Master of Education degree in Special Education in the specialization areas of: Developmental/Cognitive Disabilities; Early Childhood; Emotional Disturbance; Learning Disabilities; Strategist; Visual Impairment; and Autism Spectrum Disorder.

The Special Education programs are designed for educators or other professionals interested in the study of children, adolescents, and/or adults with disabilities. Certified teachers with a bachelor’s degree in any area of education may pursue either the Master of Education or the Master of Science in any of the specialization areas. The Master of Education degrees have a foundation of education focus, whereas the Master of Science degrees have an assessment and research focus. Non-certified individuals who have earned a bachelor’s degree in a field of study other than education may only pursue the Master of Science.

The Special Education faculty at the University of North Dakota believe that all children can learn. Thus, our mission is to provide the best preparation for students who aim to become special educators in schools, hospitals, state and private institutions, and other human service agencies.

Through this program, you will:
- Learn concepts, practices, and approaches that benefit children/young adults with disabilities.
- Become familiar with issues, trends, and research in the field of special education.
- Be encouraged to have an inquiring and questioning attitude toward your profession.
- Become conversant with the literature of the field and be encouraged to be a lifelong learner.

**Admission Requirements**

1. A bachelor’s degree.
2. For students seeking North Dakota teacher certification, T&L 315 Education of Exceptional Students, or its equivalent taken as either a prerequisite or co-requisite with the master’s coursework.
3. For students seeking North Dakota teacher certification, an elementary reading methods course and an elementary math methods course taken as either prerequisites or co-requisites with the master’s coursework.
4. A cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.75 for all undergraduate work or a GPA of at least 3.0 for the junior and senior years of undergraduate work (based on A = 4.00).
5. Satisfy the School of Graduate Studies’ English Language Proficiency requirements as published in the graduate catalog.

**Admissions Process**

1. Complete the School of Graduate Studies online application.
2. Submit the application fee of $35.
3. Recommend three people who will complete the recommendation form:
   a. one from an employment supervisor or administrator;
   b. one from a professional colleague or university professor; and
   c. one from a person of your choosing.
4. Send official transcripts from each institution attended to the School of Graduate Studies.
5. Complete the personal statement and attach it in the "essay" section of the application. The personal statement should address three questions:
   a. describe several personal and professional goals you would like to achieve in the next five years including why these goals are important to you;
   b. describe the characteristics, attitudes, values, and/or skills that you think will make you a good candidate for your chosen professional role; and
   6. describe what you have done professionally or personally that you are proud of.
Specialization Areas
Please refer to the academic catalog for specialization descriptions.

- Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)
- Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)
- Emotional Disturbance (ED)
- General Special Education
- Gifted/Talented Education (GT)
- Intellectual Disabilities (ID)
- Learning Disabilities (LD)
- Special Education Strategist (SES)
- Visual Impairment (VI)

Degree Requirements
Students seeking the Master of Science degree at the University of North Dakota must satisfy all general requirements set forth by the School of Graduate Studies as well as particular requirements set forth by the Special Education program. Note that the Master of Science degree provides both an on-campus and online format.

1. A minimum of 32 credits including credits required for the major/specialization.
2. At least one-half of the credits must be at or above the 500 level.
3. A maximum of one-fourth of the credit hours may be transferred from another institution.
4. Two credits of SPED 995 Scholarly Project or four credits of T&L 998 Thesis.
5. Five credits of scholarly tools/assessment courses. E.g.:
6.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPED 511</td>
<td>Identification and Assessment of Young Children with Special Needs</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPED 551</td>
<td>Advanced Assessment/Special Needs Students</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>SPED 557</td>
<td>Progress Monitoring/Special Needs Students</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPED 558</td>
<td>Response to Intervention</td>
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<td>SPED 567</td>
<td>ASD Assessment</td>
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<td>SPED 590</td>
<td>Special Topics in Special Education</td>
<td>1-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>EFR 509</td>
<td>Introduction to Educational Research</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>EFR 515</td>
<td>Statistics I</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>T&amp;L 569</td>
<td>Action Research</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

7. In addition to #4 and #5 above, choose one or more specialization areas and complete the required courses and elective courses for a minimum total of 32 credits for the M.S. degree:

Faculty and Areas of Expertise
- Lynne Chalmers, Ph.D., Graduate Director, Special Education
- Kari Chiasson, Ph.D., Early Childhood Special Education; Visual Impairment
- Shannon Grave, M.Ed., Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Amy Jacobson, Ed.D. Learning disabilities, Emotional Disturbance, and Strategist
- Carol Johnson, Ph.D., Graduate Director, ASD Certificate
- Bridgette Campoverde, M.Ed., Clinical Supervisor, Resident Teacher Program
- Patti Mahar, Ed.D., Intellectual Disabilities; ADHD
- Katherine Terras, Ed.D., Emotional Disorders, Learning Disabilities
- Deanne Borgeson, Ph.D., Early Childhood Special Education, Intellectual Disabilities
- Meghan Salyers, Ph.D., Gifted/Talented
- Marci Glessner, Ph.D., Learning Disabilities, Intellectual Disabilities
- Terri Houghton, M.Ed., Strategist

Contact Information
Dr. Lynne Chalmers, Graduate Director
Teaching & Learning—Special Education
University of North Dakota
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Grand Forks, ND 58202-7189
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F: (701) 777-0880
E: lynne.chalmers@email.und.edu

Apply online: http://graduateschool.und.edu
Deadlines apply. See our website for more details.

Last Updated: 6/27/2014
Email: questions@gradschool.und.edu