

Online Master's Degree in Special Education with Professional Certification as Educational Diagnostician Program Overview and FAQs

Program Description: The Masters of Education Degree with a major in Special Education is designed for the practicing teacher to build professional knowledge and practical skills. Completion of degree requirements will allow the candidate to become certified as an Educational Diagnostician. Candidates who are not practicing special educators may be required to complete leveling courses. As a student of the program you will:

- Apply what you learn through meaningful practicum experiences
- Be up to date with the literature of the field and evidence-based practices.
- Understand the issues, trends, and research that influence contemporary education.

How can you deliver this instruction online effectively?

The success of online learning is determined by many factors including a) student motivation, b) responsiveness of instructor, and c) program design.

- a) Student Motivation: Students who have completed this program have been highly motivated and dedicated to the field of special education. They possess and develop many of the skills that are necessary to be a successful educational diagnostician - especially time management and organizational skills. They take an active role in their own learning by asking questions, researching, and collaborating.
- b) Responsiveness of Instructor: Midwestern State University has always prided itself on its small classes and individual attention it pays to students. This program maintains these points of pride. Some students need more support from instructor, while other students seem to thrive on independent study. Our small class sizes allow the needs of both of these students to be met.
- c) Program design: The program is designed with the Texas Educational Diagnostician Standards as the foundation along with Diagnostician and Special Education Leadership standards of The Council for Exceptional. Upon completion of the program, students will have been taught the required standards and completed the required practicum hours to be eligible to become certified as an educational diagnostician. See link below:

[http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac\\$ext.viewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=19&pt=7&ch=239&sch=C&rl=Y](http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac$ext.viewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=19&pt=7&ch=239&sch=C&rl=Y)

How is instruction delivered?

Instruction is delivered using a variety of methods. Instruction for this program can be described as meaningful, rigorous, and flexible in its delivery. A brief description the types of methods appear below:

- a) Traditional Online instruction Tools using *Desire to Learn* that allows for posting of information, discussion boards, online assessment, email, and communication tools.
- b) Textbooks/Professional Library : An educational diagnostician needs a professional library in order to be effective. Textbooks are best viewed as tools and as an investment in this program and will become part of your professional library.
- c) DVD/CD/Video Instruction: Courses in individualized assessment have traditionally have been delivered in the classroom with the instructor demonstrating, student practicing, and then the student practicing with real children. Test companies now supply training videos and webinars to teach how to administer and score their testing instruments (WISC-5, WJ-IV, and KABC). This instruction is usually provided by the author of the test who is regarded as the authority on the instrument. Instruction via distance is very similar to the instruction in the classroom. The following sequence to teach each instrument is: 1) become familiar with test kit and manual, 2) watch Video (pause and practice), 3) recruit real subject and practice, 4) score and report, and 5) reflect.

*Once you learn the basics of test administration and have practiced using several instruments, you will be able to use these skills to administer and score other instruments. As you go through your career, new and revised instruments will come out periodically. You will actually go through this same sequence as a practicing diagnostician.

- d) Video-Conferencing: Using video sharing software, webcam, and microphone, we have the ability to communicate, share a computer screen, observe, record, and teach.
- e) Practicum experiences: The online option (and traditional option too) requires extensive field experiences including testing students from a wide range of age groups and backgrounds, parents, and supervised experiences with educational diagnosticians. This is in addition to the hands-on experience you will gain from the other courses. This will ensure your competency and confidence as an educational diagnostician.*
- f) We also have optional-but encouraged live seminars throughout the school year on Saturdays.

*Practicum supervision will be coordinated with instructor, student, and cooperating district (district you work in).

Will I be required to go to campus? For SPED 6013 Individualized Diagnostic Assessment 1 and SPED 6023 Individualized Diagnostic 2 you will be **required*** to come to the MSU campus or the Flower Mound Campus (sessions will be live streamed as well) for a Saturday Seminar early in the semester. Other **optional** seminars will be offered throughout the semester which you are encouraged to attend.

*For students who have extensive travel needs, attendance at required seminar can be virtual.

What is the admission requirement for the West College of Education?

All students seeking admission to graduate programs in the West College of Education must meet three types of admission requirements: University requirements, West College of Education requirements, and specific program requirements. University requirements for admission to graduate study are in the Academic and University Information section.

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In order to become **admitted** to the Educational Diagnostion program, you **MUST** be a certified to teach and provide a service record.

1. Students who have **earned a 3.0 GPA** on an undergraduate degree from an accredited university may be **automatically admitted** to a West College of Education graduate program. Students who have earned less than a 3.0 GPA on an undergraduate degree from an accredited university should submit scores from the GRE ScoreItNow! Students who do not make a satisfactory score on the writing sample, may be required to take an approved writing intensive course and/or seek tutoring from the MSU Writing Center.

2. Admission to a specific program also requires a satisfactory background of undergraduate course work and experience. Admission to all programs requires 18 to 24 hours of acceptable undergraduate course work. Leveling work may be required if a student needs additional undergraduate background. State certification in Educational Leadership, Educational Diagnostician, and School Counseling requires appropriate teacher certification. Students must submit copies of service record and certificate. Specific program requirements are listed with each program major and option.

3. Students who enter as non-degree seeking or with professional development status and who are later admitted to the graduate program may request credit for a maximum of 9 semester credit hours of successfully completed coursework to be applied toward the graduate degree with the approval of the Graduate Coordinator and the Dean of the College.

Admission to Candidacy

Admission to candidacy for graduate programs in the West College of Education will be determined by the Graduate Advisory Committee and will require

- a qualifying examination, taken in the first 6 hours of course work, to determine proficiency in writing. If the student does not pass the writing sample, remediation will be prescribed.
- that students not passing the GRE Writing Analysis or the GRE ScoreItNow! test (though they may continue with their course work) must take ENGL 2113, Composition Skills and make a B or better, the following semester.
- successful completion of 15 hours of course work.

Grades for Graduate Study. Only grades of A, B, and C are acceptable in graduate courses. No more than two grades of C may be applied to the Master's degree. Upon earning a third grade of C or lower, the Faculty Review Committee will recommend to the Dean whether or not the student should be dismissed from the graduate program.

Most University Questions/Answers	
Home Page	http://www.mwsu.edu
Registrar: Schedule of Classes	http://registrar.mwsu.edu/
Estimated Cost per Semester	http://www.mwsu.edu/academics/graduateschool/index
Admissions: Apply Online	http://www.mwsu.edu/academics/graduateschool/index
Academic Calendar	http://www.mwsu.edu/registrar/calendars
University Catalogs	http://www.mwsu.edu/registrar/catalog/index

What courses are required for a degree?

36 Hours

- COUN 6013 Human Relations
- EDUC 5053 Introduction to Educational Research
- EDUC 6753 Applied Research
- SPED 6613 Individualized Diagnostic Assessment I
- SPED 6623 Individualized Diagnostic Assessment II

- SPED 6633 Vocational, Motor Skills and Assistive Technology Assessment
- SPED 6913 Special Education Law
- SPED 6943 Practicum in Special Education
- SPED 6953 Graduate Seminar in Special Education (Bilingual Assessment Emphasis)
- SPED 6963 Foundations of Special Education Leadership
- SPED 6013 Teaching Strategies for Affective Disorders
- SPED 6963 Foundations of Special Education

Leveling courses may be required for students who do not have a degree or special education certificate.

What if I already have a Masters Degree and want to become an educational diagnostician?

Students who already possess a master’s degree can become an educational diagnostician via distance education too. A transcript review will be conducted and an individualized deficiency plan will be developed based on this review. A minimum core of 18 hours will be required of all candidates. In general, the more special education courses you have taken, the fewer hours it will require. (See below for more information)

Educational Diagnostician Deficiency Plan

Students seeking diagnostician certification who already possess a Master’s Degree will be required to complete courses to a) possess the necessary skills to be a high quality educational diagnostician, and b) be able to demonstrate competency of the state requirements. Each candidate will complete a minimum core of 18 hours (listed below) of courses in order to be considered for certification. Since candidates enter the program with various teaching certificates, educational backgrounds, degree types, and coursework a thorough transcript audit will be conducted and additional courses will/may be required pending approval of program coordinator and certification officer.

Minimum Core 18 hour		
SPED6613	Individualized Diagnostic Assessment I	
SPED 6623	Individualized Diagnostic Assessment II	
SPED 6633	Vocational, Motor Skills and Assistive Technology Assessment	

SPED 6913	Special Education Law	
SPED 6963	Foundations of Ethics and Practice Standards	
SPED 6943	Special Education Practicum	
Additional Courses Required/Equivalent		
SPED 6013	Teaching Strategies for Affective Disorders	
SPED 5813	Tier 3 Reading Strategies	
SPED 6033	Early Childhood Special Education	
SPED 5613	Foundations of Special Education	
Students who do not hold special education certification or sufficient courses work may be required to take the following leveling courses		
SPED 3313	Teaching Strategies for Cognitive Disorders	
SPED 4123	Assessment	
SPED 3613	Exceptional Individuals	

*Please note, per TEA, Educational Diagnosticians who are seeking a probationary certificate (i.e., get a job prior to certification) must have completed the core 18 hours and must be supervised. Supervision is required for one full school year and a fee of \$1000.00 is required.

How do I sign up for Courses?

Advising Procedures

Upon acceptance into the program, you will be assigned a Mustang ID# (M#) which allows you to be advised and register for courses. You will need to familiarize yourself with the MSU portal in order to register (<http://www.mwsu.edu/registrar/prewebworld/>). You will be assigned an advisor that you will use throughout your program once you get admitted. Mary Wines will be your advisor if you are seeking Dyslexia ONLY.

Please follow the steps listed below in order to be advised.

1. Access course schedules online (these are usually available in Mid- March, and Early October).

2. Select courses that are offered for your degree plan. Check the catalog for pre-requisites. Generally, six hours is the maximum hours allowed for a semester.
3. Email your advisor with your proposed/preferred courses. Please include your M# in this correspondence as it will expedite the process. Course selections will be reconciled with your degree plan and current transcript.
4. Permission will be given to register for courses (or alternate selections) and your advising hold will be removed. You will not be able to register until your advising hold is removed.
5. Use Web world to register for classes.

Additional Advising Information

It is important that you consult the university catalog as it is ultimately the student’s responsibility to register for the proper courses. Some courses are offered once a year so these should be taken when available as to not delay graduation. Courses are offered in a manner which allows timely progression through the program. Please schedule a phone call if you need further assistance beyond email and make sure that you follow the recommendations of your advisor instead of your well-meaning colleagues.

Degree Plans “At A Glance”-Masters in SPED

Please refer to this “At A Glance” to determine which Degree plan you will follow:

Masters Leading to:	With Undergraduate Degree/Cert in SPED	Degree Plan
Diagnostician Cert	Special Education/Education	1. 36 hours
Dyslexia Concentration	Special Education/Education	2. 36 hours
Dyslexia and Diag	Special Education Undergraduate Degree or Sped certified	3. 39 hours
Dyslexia and Diag	Education degree –NO Sped Cert or SPED Undergraduate degree	4. 48 Hours

1. Diagnostician Certification (36 Hours)

- COUN 6013 Human Relations
- EDUC 5053 Introduction to Educational Research
- EDUC 6753 Applied Research
- SPED 6613 Individualized Diagnostic Assessment I
- SPED 6623 Individualized Diagnostic Assessment II
- SPED 6633 Vocational, Motor Skills and Assistive Technology Assessment
- SPED 6913 Special Education Law
- SPED 6943 Practicum in Special Education
- SPED 6953 Graduate Seminar in Special Education
- SPED 6963 Foundations of Ethics and Practice Standards
- SPED 6013 Teaching Strategies for Affective Disorders
- SPED 6963 Foundations of Special Education

2. Dyslexia Concentration (36 Hours)

- SPED 5103 Survey of Dyslexia and Related Learning Disabilities
- SPED 5113 Promoting Early Language Development of the Dyslexic Student*
- SPED 5123 Reading Fluency Instruction and Assessment for the Dyslexic Student*
- SPED 5133 Morphological and Syntactical Awareness for the Dyslexic Student*
- SPED 5143 Cognitive and Linguistic Structure of Written Language for the Dyslexic Student*

- SPED 6913 Special Education Law
- SPED 6943 Practicum in Special Education
- COUN 6013 Human Relations
- EDUC 5053 Introduction to Educational Research
- EDUC 6753 Applied Research

Six (6) hours of electives as approved by the program coordinator.

Preferred Electives:

- SPED 5013 Exceptional Individuals
- SPED 6013 Teaching Strategies for Affective Disorders
- SPED 6963 Foundations of Special Education
- SPED 6963 Foundations of Ethics and Practice Standards

3. Dyslexia Concentration and Diag Cert (has Special education Undergrad or Sped Certification) 39 Hours

- SPED 5103 Survey of Dyslexia and Related Learning Disabilities **(summer)**
- SPED 5113 Promoting Early Language Development of the Dyslexic Student* **(Fall)**
- SPED 5123 Reading Fluency Instruction and Assessment for the Dyslexic Student* **(Fall)**
- SPED 5133 Morphological and Syntactical Awareness for the Dyslexic Student* **(Spring)**
- SPED 5143 Cognitive and Linguistic Structure of Written Language for the Dyslexic Student* **(Spring)**
- SPED 6913 Special Education Law
- SPED 6943 Practicum in Special Education

- COUN 6013 Human Relations
- EDUC 5053 Introduction to Educational Research
- EDUC 6753 Applied Research
- SPED 6613 Individualized Diagnostic Assessment I
- SPED 6623 Individualized Diagnostic Assessment II
- SPED 6633 Vocational, Motor Skills and Assistive Technology Assessment

4. Dyslexia Concentration and Diag Cert (NO Special education Undergrad or Sped Certification) 48 Hours

- SPED 5103 Survey of Dyslexia and Related Learning Disabilities
- SPED 5113 Promoting Early Language Development of the Dyslexic Student*
- SPED 5123 Reading Fluency Instruction and Assessment for the Dyslexic Student*
- SPED 5133 Morphological and Syntactical Awareness for the Dyslexic Student*
- SPED 5143 Cognitive and Linguistic Structure of Written Language for the Dyslexic Student*
- SPED 6913 Special Education Law
- SPED 6943 Practicum in Special Education

- COUN 6013 Human Relations
- EDUC 5053 Introduction to Educational Research
- EDUC 6753 Applied Research
- SPED 6613 Individualized Diagnostic Assessment I
- SPED 6623 Individualized Diagnostic Assessment II
- SPED 6633 Vocational, Motor Skills and Assistive Technology Assessment

Nine (9) hours of leveling courses:

- SPED 5013 Exceptional Individuals
- SPED 6013 Teaching Strategies for Affective Disorders
- SPED 6963 Foundations of Ethics and Practice Standards

Course Offerings Planning: This is subject to change and is based on current certification/accreditation requirements for course sequence.		
SPED6613	Individualized Diagnostic Assessment I	Fall
SPED 6623	Individualized Diagnostic Assessment II	Spring
SPED 6633	Vocational, Motor Skills and Assistive Technology Assessment	Summer
SPED 6913	Special Education Law	Fall
SPED 6963	Foundations of Ethics and Practice Standards	Summer
SPED 6943	Special Education Practicum*	Fall
SPED 6953	Special Graduate Topics in Special Education	Summer/Fall
Additional Courses Required/Equivalent		
SPED 6013	Teaching Strategies for Affective Disorders	Spring
SPED 5813	Tier 3 Reading Strategies	Summer
SPED 6033	Early Childhood Special Education	Spring/Fall
SPED 5613	Foundations of Special Education	Spring
SPED 5013	Exceptional Ind	Summer

Non-Special Education Classes		
COUN6013	Human Relations (online)	Summer
EDUC 5053	Introduction to Educational Research	Fall/Spring
EDUC 6753	Applied Research	Fall/Spring

*If you are seeking Diag cert, SPED 6943 can be taken **AFTER** you have completed SPED 6613, SPED 6623, and SPED 6633.

Upon completion of the program, MSU will recommend to TEA that you are certified upon successful completion of:

1. Three (3) years teaching (as verified by service record)
2. Passing the Educational Diagnostician Certification Exam.
3. Completion and verification of 160 Hours of supervised Practicum.



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