

Online Master's in Special Education with a Concentration in Bilingual Special Education

Program Highlights

30 credit hours

In-state tuition: \$480.90/credit hour*

Out-of-state tuition: \$590.53/credit hour*

** Tuition is based on 2023-2024 rates and is subject to change.*

- Available in an easily accessible 100% online format from UTEP's College of Education
- Seeks to equip school professionals with the skills and knowledge necessary to become powerful advocates for bilingual students, including those with disabilities, both within their local schools and beyond
- Affordable, with a focus on evidence-based practices and leadership
- Includes student-driven projects based on areas of interest
- Boasts supportive, diverse faculty with expertise in bilingual special education
- Aligns with state and national standards for special and bilingual education



Become a powerful advocate for bilingual students, especially those with disabilities

Local school practitioners, as well as those across the nation are increasingly tasked with educating a growing number of emergent bilingual students, despite having had limited training in this area during their teacher preparation. The Master's in Bilingual Special Education helps address this gap. It provides a set of courses designed to integrate interdisciplinary scholarship from applied linguistics, special education, and bilingual education, thereby providing comprehensive and research-based instructional strategies and approaches. It also undertakes an equitable approach that recognizes the cultural and linguistic assets of emergent bilingual students and empowers teachers to work towards creating a more culturally and linguistically responsive and inclusive educational system that ensures the success of all students.

This degree is perfect for special education teachers; general education teachers with an interest in supporting students with disabilities; individuals with disabilities interested in advocacy; and bilingual or non-bilingual individuals interested in culturally responsive teaching.

There is a high demand for dually certified teachers in special education and bilingual education.

Students in this program will

- gain the tools to identify and address the unique challenges that culturally and linguistically diverse students may encounter in the classroom
- focus on treating bilingualism as an asset/strength
- help improve outcomes for students across the lifespan from early childhood to adulthood and lead the way for them to become leaders in their communities and engage in culturally responsive practices.
- Acquire skills in the following areas:
 - Implementing curricula, lessons and assessments
 - Collaborating with special educators, general educators, administrators, families and community agencies
 - Leadership and advocacy
 - Implementing research and professional development/training
- Enjoy a unique curriculum that includes
 - Practical assignments with applications to schools and community partnerships
 - A mix of readings, videos, podcasts, and multi-media resources
 - Engagement with classmates from diverse backgrounds, who speak a variety of languages, and who have experience engaging with students/families from diverse backgrounds

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Types of jobs students hold after graduation include:

- Special education teacher
- General education teacher
- Instructional Leader
- Administrator
- Community Leader

Note: Students in this program, who currently work as educators may be eligible for TEACH grant funding (<https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/financialaid/types-of-aid/grants.html>)

Admissions Requirements

To qualify for admission into the M.A. in Bilingual Special Education, you must:

- Submit a completed graduate admissions application and application fee
- Have an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or greater
- Provide:
 - a resumé demonstrating basic knowledge or experience in education or education-related fields
 - a written statement of purpose describing personal and professional goals related to obtaining the degree
 - two professional letters of reference

GRE is NOT required.

International students whose first language is not English must also submit an Official TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) score of at least 79 on the online version, or 550 on the paper-based version.

Admission factors will be reviewed holistically to assess the potential of the applicant.

Curriculum

You must complete 30 hours of required coursework with a grade of "C" or better to earn this degree.

Core Requirements (18 hours)

- SPED 5320 Special Education Historical & Legal Basis
- SPED 5321 Contemporary Trends in Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Special Education
- SPED 5337 Assessment: Disability and Cultural Linguistic Factors
- SPED 5361 Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports
- EDPC 5310 Applied Research Design for Education
- SPED 5378 Capstone in Special Education

Concentration (9 hours)

- SPED 5322 Applications in Bilingual Special Education
- SPED 5330 Early Childhood Bilingual Special Education
- SPED 5347 Collaboration in Bilingual Special Education

Electives (pick any one; 3 hours)

- BED 5325 Assessing Bilingual Learners
- BED 5334 Teaching Content and Literacy in Spanish
- BED 5335 Dual Language Education
- BED 5336 Biliteracy
- BED 5343 Content Area Instruction for Emergent Bilinguals

Total Credits: 30

Note: Curriculum is subject to change.



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