

# Graduate Studies Programs

## *Master of Science in Education with Massachusetts Licensure in Moderate Disabilities*

### About the Program

The Simmons graduate programs in special education are among the largest programs of their kind in the country. This program for Massachusetts state licensure in moderate disabilities (PreK-8 or 5-12) is designed to prepare special-ists to provide direct service to learners in inclusive classrooms. Traditionally, learners with moderate disabilities have received educational services within resource rooms or substantially separate classes in 603 CMR approved public or private schools. The philosophy of all Simmons graduate programs in special education is grounded in the principles of inclusion – that all individuals can learn and that they have the right to do so in a classroom within their own community and with learners their own age. This program provides the skills and strategies to work with learners with moderate disabilities in a variety of settings.

### Sequence of Courses

This program consists of a minimum of 48 credits of coursework and requires a full-year practicum. Simmons has established practicum experiences in several local communities in order to provide students with the best clinical experience available. The program can be completed on a full or part-time basis. The full-time sequence of courses incorporates two semesters of coursework and a summer component during year one. During year two, students take coursework and fulfill practicum requirements. Students who wish to attend on a part-time basis must still participate in the practicum, but have a four-year period to complete the coursework. All students enrolled in the program must develop a plan of study and review program requirements with an advisor.

### About the College

Simmons College is located in the heart of Boston, a world-class city renowned for unlimited educational, career, and social opportunities. All programs provide a challenging educational experience in which every student develops an informed, critical, and committed voice, and learns to be a leader and collaborative member of the professional community. Simmons College was named a “Best College” in its category in the 2006 *US News & World Report*. Simmons was also included in the 2006 *Princeton Review* “Best 351 Colleges,” and was named among the “Best in New England” in the first-ever edition of *Princeton Review’s Best Northeastern Colleges*.

*The quality of instruction and the flexibility of the schedule in the Simmons moderate disabilities program gave me the opportunity to change careers and pursue my passion for teaching. The combination of in class learning and practical experience allowed me to develop the skills and competencies necessary to become a confident and successful teacher.*

MICHELE FIGUEIRA '07GS  
M.S.ED. IN MODERATE DISABILITIES



**SIMMONS**  
GRADUATE STUDIES ADMISSION

## Prerequisites for the Practicum

### Grades PreK-8

Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL)  
Communication and Literacy Skills  
Foundations of Reading test  
General Curriculum test

### Grades 5-12

Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL)  
Communication and Literacy Skills  
Foundations of Reading test  
Subject Matter test or General Curriculum test

## Coursework

### Required Courses:

SPND 412 Including Learners with Special Needs  
SPND 422 Using Computers to Include Learners with Special Needs  
SPND 441 Classroom Management for Learners with Special Needs  
in Inclusive Settings  
SPND 436 Formal and Informal Assessment  
SPND 443 Issues in the Education of Learners with Special Needs  
SPND 446 Learners with Special Needs  
RDG 406 The Structure of Language for Teachers 1  
RDG 410 Multisensory Structured Language Strategies for Reading

### Practicum (Fall and Spring Semester)

SPND 438 Practicum: Moderate Disabilities (PreK-8)  
SPND 488-01 Seminar in Education: Moderate (PreK-8)  
or  
SPND 439 Practicum: Moderate Disabilities (grades 5-12)  
SPND 488-02 Seminar in Education: Moderate (grades 5-12)

*The coursework and prerequisites are subject to change and are evaluated individually for each student. All students must meet with an academic advisor to discuss their specific course of study.*

## Contact Us

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