

Graduate Studies Programs

Master of Science in Education with Massachusetts Initial Licensure in Severe 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 severe disabilities (PreK-12) is designed to prepare teachers to work with learners with severe disabilities at all levels. Graduates of the program teach in inclusive general education classes, self-contained special education classes, and 603 CMR approved residential or day schools in order to support the inclusion of learners with severe disabilities in the classroom, the community, and the workplace. Students are prepared to teach learners in elementary, middle, and high school settings the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks as well as age-appropriate skills including communication, independence skills, social behavior, and job skills.

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 part-time or full-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*.

“As a student at Simmons College I have really enjoyed the small classes, and how easy it has been to get to know my professors and peers. Everyone has been very willing to share their insights and knowledge. The professors and the staff at Simmons made my transition from work to school a very easy process, and I thank them for that.”

JAMES MCLERNON '09GS
M.S.ED.



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Prerequisites for the Practicum

Communication and Literacy skills portion of Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL)

MTEL General Curriculum test

Coursework

Required Courses:

- RDG 410 Multisensory Structured Language Strategies for Reading
- SPND 412 Including Learners with Special Needs
- SPND 422 Using Computers to Include Learners with Special Needs
- SPND 442 Analysis of Behavior: Principles and Classroom Applications
- SPND 443 Issues in the Education of Learners with Special Needs
- SPND 446 Learners with Special Needs
- SPND 447 Assessment and Curriculum Development for Learners with Severe Disabilities
- SPND 448 Analysis of Community Resources and Development of the Trainer Advocate Role

Practicum (Fall and Spring Semesters):

- SPND 468 Practicum: Severe Disabilities (Levels: All)
- SPND 488 Seminar in Education: Severe Disabilities (Levels: All)

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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