

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM MASTER OF ARTS (MA)**

The purpose of the Master of Arts (MA) in Special Education is to develop and extend research competencies in Special Education. Students graduating from this program will demonstrate the ability to conduct research related to Special Education. Students entering the program desire to gain in depth understanding of a specific area of interest, e.g. effect of specific approach on the performance of students with special needs, attitudes of teachers toward inclusion, etc. This degree permits students and advisors to tailor programs of study to meet specific interests.

### **Admission Requirements**

- Baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution
- 3.00 or better junior/senior GPA
- Acceptable GRE or MAT score. (if GPA is below 3.0)

### **Program of Study (Minimum 36 hours)**

Course work will include a minimum of 15 hours in Special Education and a minimum of 15 hours of research. The research courses will include one research design course, two statistics courses and 6 hours of thesis. At least one doctoral level content class must be included. The Program of Study must be prepared by the student in conjunction with his/her faculty advisor and must be submitted for approval to the Advisory Committee prior to the completion of nine graduate hours.

### **Research Requirements (9 hours total)**

SPE 582 Classroom Research with Exceptional Children (3)  
SPE 599 Thesis (6)

### **Research Methods Requirements (6 hours total)**

(Determined in conjunction with advisor)

### **Special Education and Related Study**

- 15 graduate level Special Education credits
- Other course work selected from SPE or a related field of study to complete the 36 hour requirement

### **Thesis**

All Master of Arts Special Education students must complete a thesis. Students are expected to choose coursework that is applicable to their thesis. The thesis involves conducting and reporting upon descriptive, experimental, or qualitative research in Special Education. The thesis topic must (1) be approved by the student's Advisory Committee, (2) follow the *Guide to Preparation of the Master's Thesis, Applied Project, or Doctoral Dissertation* (available in the Graduate College), and (3) be orally defended before the student's Advisory Committee.