

Special Education (M.Ed., Ed.S.) Professional Learning Outcomes

The professional learning outcomes (PLOs) for the Master of Education and Education Specialist programs in special education are listed below. Our curriculum is designed to help our graduates attain the professional knowledge and competencies outlined by the [Council for Exceptional Children's Advanced Preparation Standards](#). The standards describe the necessary skills and expertise for practicing special education teachers. The Council for Exceptional Children is the premiere professional organization for special education.

1. **Assessment:** Special education specialists use valid and reliable assessment practices to minimize bias
2. **Curricular Content Knowledge:** Special education specialists use their knowledge of general and specialized curricula to improve programs, supports, and services at classroom, school, community, and system levels
3. **Programs, Services, and Outcomes:** Special education specialists facilitate the continuous improvement of general and special education programs, supports, and services at the classroom, school, and system levels for individuals with exceptionalities
4. **Research and Inquiry:** Special education specialists conduct, evaluate, and use inquiry to guide professional practice
5. **Leadership and Policy:** Special education specialists provide leadership to formulate goals, set and meet high professional expectations, advocate for effective policies and evidence-based practices, and create positive and productive work environments
6. **Professional and Ethical Practice:** Special education specialists use foundational knowledge of the field and professional ethical principles and practice standards to inform special education practice, engage in lifelong learning, advance the profession, and perform leadership responsibilities to promote the success of professional colleagues and individuals with exceptionalities
7. **Collaboration:** Special education specialists collaborate with stakeholders to improve programs, services, and outcomes for individuals with exceptionalities and their families