

Information about the Special Education MA Generalist Emphasis at the Lowry Campus in
Denver

What is the M.A. Generalist program in Special Education?

The MA degree in Special Education with Generalist emphasis prepares teachers who will work with students who are identified with a variety of disabilities from moderate to severe intensity. The emphasis of the program content focuses on literacy and mathematics instruction, understanding standards and assessment, differentiated instruction, and technology. Teachers completing this program will demonstrate the skills needed to provide appropriate behavior supports and accommodations for learning of students with disabilities. The Special Education Generalist is required to pass the approved elementary education content exam prior to entry into the preparation program, and the special education generalist PLACE exam prior to licensing. The program consists of the required courses and practicum requirements agreed upon by the student and advisor. If a student enters the Master of Arts program in Special Education: Generalist without a current teacher licensure, s/he is required to complete additional admission requirements and course requirements listed under Professional Teacher Education (9 credits total).

What is the Lowry Generalist program?

The Lowry program at Denver is the same program as described above with the exception that it is delivered at the Lowry campus in Denver and it follows a cohort model. This means that the program is laid out for the students to take two courses per semester in the weekend format (4 weekends of Friday 5-9, Sat 9-5) classes and that a cohort of no more than 30 students complete the series of classes together. The program is 33 credit hours total, with more potential credits (9 credits) if you come without a background in education. The cohort is scheduled to graduate in exactly two years time if the students follow the schedule that is created by their academic advisor.

What are the MA Generalist Courses?

Required Emphasis Credits - 33 hours

[EDSE 510 Foundations of Special Education \(3\)](#)

[EDSE 511 Learning Environments and Cultural Considerations \(3\)](#)

[EDSE 512 Assessment, IEP Development, and Instructional Planning \(3\)](#)

[EDSE 613 Applied Assessment \(3\)](#)

[EDSE 614 Behavioral Interventions \(3\)](#)

[EDSE 616 Scientifically Based Literacy Interventions \(3\)](#)

[EDSE 617 Mathematics and Content Area Learning for Students with Disabilities \(3\)](#)

[EDSE 618 Educating Students with Significant Support Needs \(3\)](#)

[EDSE 619 Secondary Services \(3\)](#)

[EDSE 693 Practicum in Special Education \(3\)](#)

WHAT ARE THE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS?

Application Review

Please note that the Program Coordinators in the School of Special Education will not review incomplete applications. The incomplete applications will be held in the School of Special Education administrative office until all required components of the application have been received.

Application and Other Forms

Download or print the [application from the Graduate School Office](#) site.

We recommend printing the Adobe Acrobat version of the application at this time because the online application does not include the form used for the letters of recommendation and the Application for Educator License form. The Adobe Acrobat version of the application includes all three items. In addition, the Graduate School Office will hold the application until all original transcripts have been received, whether the on-line application, or the printed application is used. The Graduate School Office will not forward the application to the School of Special Education until these items have been received. The speed of the online application is dependent on the speed that the Graduate School receives the original transcripts.

Letters of Recommendation

Please note that the form used for a letter of recommendation must include a letter either printed either on the back of the form or attached. The letter must have an original signature. E-mailed letters with no original signature will not be accepted. Letters of recommendation may come from academic professors, employers, or from someone who is familiar with your work and professional career. A copy of an evaluation will also be accepted in lieu of one letter of recommendation.

Statement of Educational Philosophy and Goals

In addition to the applications and letters of recommendation, the School of Special Education requires a written Statement of Educational Philosophy and Goals. This need not be lengthy. A statement regarding what your philosophy is for teaching and why you want the degree is sufficient; usually 1 or 2 typed pages.

Exams and Grade Point Average

If your grade point average is less than 3.0, scores from the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) are required. GRE scores must be a minimum of a composite score of 900 on Verbal and Quantitative, and 3.5 on Analytical Writing Samples.

Graduate School must convert them. Credit points are usually defined on official transcripts. If they are not defined, the Graduate School applies a standard key with an A being 4.0 points, a B being 3.0 points, etc. Simply put, the total credit points divided by the total credits will be the GPA. However, some complications arise in circumstances with unique situations such as repeated courses. The Graduate School advises that if you have any questions about your GPA, you may supply official transcripts to them and they will calculate your GPA for you. For example, before you actually mail them, you can fax them if you have GPA questions and they will calculate for you and let you know what your GPA

is. They will not work with transcripts from on-line because the credit definitions are rarely included in on-line transcripts. The Graduate School Office may be contacted at 970-351-2691 (Fax: 970-351-2371) for questions.

Application Checklist

- Completed Application for Graduate School
- Completed Application for Educator License
- Two Letters of Recommendation Forms with letters attached
- Statement of Educational Philosophy and Goals
- Photocopy of official GRE Scores if your GPA is less than 3.0 (GPA based on the last 60 hours of a semester system, or 90 hours of a quarter system – *see the GPA explanation above*)
- Photocopy of current Elementary Education Teaching License if applying to Generalist program
- Photocopy of official PLACE or PRAXIS II Elementary Content scores if applying to Generalist program and you *do not* have a current license in Elementary Education.

Additional Generalist Exam or License Requirements

The application requirements described in the Master's Handbook do not include the additional Generalist requirement of test results from the Elementary Content of either the PLACE or PRAXIS II exam. **Generally, if you live in Colorado, you should take the PLACE exam for admission. If you are applying from out of state, you should choose the Praxis II exam so you can take it in your state and mail us the results.**

If you are applying for the Generalist program, and you do not currently have an Elementary Education teaching license, official test scores from either the PLACE or PRAXIS II exam in Elementary Content are required before your application will be reviewed. Contrary to what the exam organizations indicate, we will not automatically receive your test scores. When you get your official scores, please either mail a photocopy or fax a copy to the School of Special Education at 970-351-1061. If you already have official scores from the Elementary Content exam when you prepare your application, please include a photocopy of your official test score page with the application materials. If you currently hold a teaching license in Elementary Education, test scores are not required. If you have a current Elementary Education license, include a photocopy of your license with your application materials.

The exam requirement and information about the Generalist program and any conversions from old programs are found at: <http://www.unco.edu/cebs/sped/>. This requirement is for the Generalist program ONLY in lieu of a current license in Elementary Education

Information about the Colorado PLACE exam for the Generalist Program may be found on the [PLACE Web site](#).

Information is available for the [PRAXIS II Elementary Education Exam \(for the Generalist Program\)](#) on the PRAXIS Web site.

For frequently asked questions, please go to the website below:

http://www.unco.edu/cebs/sped/FAQ_all_programs.html

Who Do I Contact if I am interested in the Lowry MA Generalist Program and Have additional Questions?

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School of Special Education Website:
<http://www.unco.edu/cebs/sped/>