

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING SPECIAL EDUCATION: LEARNING DISABILITIES

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Master of Arts in Teaching Special Education: Learning Disabilities (MAT SELD) aligns with the American University School of Education’s firm belief that every student deserves a top-quality education. Our program, open to candidates with no prior teaching experience, provides exposure to diverse methods, materials, and academic skills that you can leverage to support students ranging from preschool to adulthood who are at risk for or living with learning disabilities.

COURSE SCHEDULE

2 Hours	1-2 Hours	5-7 Hours	8-11 Hours
Synchronous	Asynchronous	Assignments	Total Weekly Hours
Live online or in-person classes on a specific schedule	Self-paced discussions and other course-related work	Homework, projects, research, etc.	Hours are estimates and subject to change per course

LAB SCHOOL OF WASHINGTON FELLOWSHIP

The Lab School of Washington Fellows Program offers a select group of MAT SELD candidates the opportunity to complete a 12-month residency working with students with language-based learning differences. The program is grounded in evidence-based research, and fellows receive intensive training experiences, classroom management instruction, and ongoing mentoring from Lab School master teachers and American University faculty. Candidates also receive a \$25,000 tuition scholarship and a \$10,000 training stipend. Reach out to the enrollment team for more information.

QUICK FACTS

**On Campus
or Online**

Program Format

30

Credits

1-2 Years

Completion Time*

**Summer
and Fall**

Start Dates

**No GRE
Required**

**Merit and
Partner
Scholarships
Available**

*Completion time varies depending on whether a student pursues full-time or part-time coursework.

STUDENT TEACHING PLACEMENT

Students who need student teaching credits must complete a year-long placement at a partner school. Those finishing the program in one year typically begin their student teaching placement in their first semester. Throughout the student teaching placement year, you will be in a classroom from 7:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Students may work part-time jobs in the afternoons, between their student teaching placement and classes, during the academic year from September to June.

HOW TO APPLY

Start your online application

and provide your:

- **Transcripts** from all colleges and universities attended, even if you did not earn a degree
- **Statement of purpose** focused on your personal and career goals and specific MAT SELD program elements that attract you (1,000 words)
- **Two letters of recommendation** from individuals who can evaluate your academic performance, motivation for the program of study, intellectual capacity, and/or research and writing ability
- **Resume or CV** highlighting your academic history, employment, honors, scholarships, publications, community involvement, internships, and any other relevant activities and experiences
- **\$55 application fee**

Note: Although not required for admission, all admitted students are required to take the Praxis CORE (or its equivalencies) by graduation. A 3.0 GPA waiver may be available.

COURSEWORK AND LICENSURE

The MAT SELD requires 24 coursework credits, a 3-credit special education course, and a 3-credit capstone. Your capstone coursework will vary depending on which program specialization you choose: licensure or non-licensure.

REQUIRED COURSEWORK (24 CREDITS)

Methods of Psychoeducational Assessment for Learning Disabilities and Emotional Disturbance	Theories and Methods in Diagnostic and Prescriptive Mathematics
Learning and the Brain	Language Development and Remediation
Learning Disabilities I	Learning Disabilities II
Methods of Managing Students with Behavior Disorders	Foundations of Reading: Diagnosis and Remediation

SPECIAL EDUCATION COURSEWORK (3 CREDITS)

Foundations of Special Education for Exceptional Children	Overview of All Exceptionalities: The Arts in Special Education
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CAPSTONE COURSEWORK (3 CREDITS)

LICENSURE SPECIALIZATION	NON-LICENSURE SPECIALIZATION
Special Education: Learning Disabilities Student Teaching Seminar in Professional Practice	Independent Study Project in Education

READY TO TAKE YOUR NEXT STEP?

[Start Your Application](#)

or contact our enrollment team with any questions.

[Email](#) | [Phone](#) | [Schedule an appointment](#)

