

Concurrent Masters (MS) in SPED for Enrolled Doctoral SPSY Students

The purpose of this document is to articulate the requirements of obtaining a concurrent MS in Special Education for students in the Doctoral program with School Psychology. It will briefly review the Graduate School requirements in obtaining a concurrent Masters degree, summarize the required SPED courses for current SPSY students, as well as propose multiple methods of obtaining the concurrent MS in SPED.

- This is a unique agreement for doctoral students in the SPSY program and the finalized program plan must be developed and **approved** by the SPED Graduate Director at the time SPSY students complete their typical program plan (i.e., the end of their second year, prior to completing comprehensive exams).

Current Graduate School Policy: A summary of the current Graduate School requirements for awarding a concurrent Masters are the following (full details are at the following:

<http://gradschool.uoregon.edu/?page=mastersDegreeProcedures>):

- 45 Total Graduate Credits
- 30 of those credits in the Major of the program awarding the Masters
- 24 of the credits must be graded
- 9 credits must be in classes with a 600 course #
- 9 credits within the 45 related to a thesis -- or the major could substitute with some form of a terminal project (Specialization area, synthesis paper, capstone project, etc.) that can have *varying* credit requirements (e.g., 6, 10, etc.)

Each department has discretion of increasing the total credits beyond the 45, the method of the final project (i.e., thesis, project, capstone courses, etc.). If a thesis is selected, the graduate school has additional specific requirements related to its completion.

Current SPED Courses Required of SPSY Program: Within the SPSY required classes (dated 2007-08), there are 20 out of 30 required credits in SPED fulfilled and should be taken for a grade. The required classes are the following:

- SPED 624 Advanced Applied Behavior Analysis (3)
- SPED 660 Design of Instruction (4)
- SPED 667 Single Subject Research Methods I (3)
- SPED 668 Single Subject Research Methods II (3)
- SPED 521 Special Education Reading Instruction (4)
- SPED 628 Law and Special Education (3)

The currently required courses apply toward the following Graduate School policies: 20/24 graded credits and 9 credits with a 600 prefix requirement.

Additional areas that need to be addressed to meet Graduate School Policy and SPED Program Expectancy:

Need a method of 1) completing a terminal project (e.g., thesis, project, etc.) and 2) a total of 30 credits with a SPED prefix (number of additional courses required will vary by terminal approach selected).

The program plan must be developed and approved by the Special Education Graduate Director at the time SPSY students complete their SPSY program (i.e., end of their second year).

Options for Meeting the Remaining Required Credits and Terminal Project:

The student can choose from 1 of 3 options as specified below and then must complete a **Program Plan** (see attached form) that is approved by the Special Education Graduate Director to document their decision when they complete their SPSY program plan (i.e., the end of their second year). As a reminder, a total of 30 credits with a SPED prefix must be documented within the plan. The options for the terminal project are: **Specialization Area, Master's Project or Thesis.**

1. **Specialization** in an approved Special Education Area: Must take a minimum of 9 credits of coursework that is approved by the SPED Graduate Director with an overt focus (e.g., learning disabilities, social behavior, etc.). One course must have a SPED prefix, but the other courses could be within or outside the Department. However, these courses must be determined **prior** to completion and agreed upon by the student and Graduate Director. The following are possible options:
 - Possible non-required SPED courses by **current SPSY specialization areas**:
 - a. Instruction: SPED 523 – Reading & Writing in Content Areas (3), SPED 611 Middle-Secondary Reading (3), SPED 612 Middle-Secondary Writing (3)
 - b. Social Behavior: SPED 526 -- Behavior & Classroom Management, SPED 532 – Introduction to Behavior Disorders (3), SPED 533 – Schoolwide Discipline (3), SPED 534 – Educating Students with Behavioral Disorders (3)
 - c. Methodology: SPED 610 -- Phenomenological Research, SPED 623 --Ways of Knowing, SPED -- 607 Advanced Research Design
 - d. Other General SPED Options or Topics: SPED 622 History of Special Education & Disability (3), SPED 613 Adolescent Development & Transition (3), SPED 614 – School to Careers (3), SPED 615 Transition Assessment & Planning, SPED 605 (variable) Reading and Conference, as well as classes in Early Intervention
2. **Masters Project**: Complete the requirements of a Master's Project (project requires between 3-9 credits) that is approved and supervised by a SPED faculty member
3. **Thesis**: Complete the requirements of a Thesis Project (minimum of 9 credits) that is approved and supervised by a SPED faculty member and meets Graduate School requirements