



The Special Education MEd programs offer three different strands to support students who want to improve the education of children with disabilities in urban settings. Most students progress through the program as a cohort in which they share perspectives about foundational knowledge and practical experiences. Field experiences accompany most courses, with modifications to allow for full-time employment. Students have opportunities to work with pupils ages 5–21 in multiple ability populations and content areas and in a variety of instructional models—all of which strengthen the overall program and student experience. The work of this program is linked to the latest research and is grounded in regular, practical experiences in schools.

## PROGRAM FACULTY

The Department of Special Education at UIC is a community of scholars, researchers, teachers, and practitioners. Together, we work to improve the education of students with disabilities from kindergarten through the high school transition. Much of the faculty scholarship is grounded in schools, and faculty have a wide network of school, community, and agency outreach. Our work stands at the forefront of the field, offering unique programs and experiences. The Special Education faculty is recognized nationally and internationally for contributions to the field. Faculty members have received numerous teaching and research awards and are leaders in professional associations and school/community outreach programs.

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The Special Education MEd program requires a minimum of 35 semester hours of course work. We offer three ways to study how to support students with disabilities:

- Strand 1 (MEd degree only): Students can study for a master’s degree and focus on key aspects of teaching all populations with highlights on differentiated instruction.
- Strand 2 (MEd degree and the LBS II Certificate): Current special educators can enhance their learning and practices through an advanced certificate. Currently, we offer bilingual special education and assistive technology certificate programs. New specializations are under development.
- Strand 3 (MEd degree and the special education teaching certificate, LBS I): Students can enter teaching for the first time or, if previously certified, add a special education certificate.

## CERTIFICATIONS

- Illinois Type 10 Certificate for Learning Behavior Specialist I to teach special education in grades K–12
- Early Childhood Special Education Approval on top of an Illinois Type 03, 04, 09, or 10 (birth–age 5)

- LBS II in bilingual special education or assistive technology for teachers holding an LBS I and additional LBS II categories under development

## SPECIAL PROGRAM FEATURES

Our Special Education MEd programs provide students with unique opportunities to work collaboratively with a host of other professionals, including classroom teachers, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists, and physical therapists, as well as opportunities to work with a broad range of populations, ages, and teaching models, allowing flexibility for our graduates throughout their careers. For example, graduates might teach students integrated into the general education classes (inclusion) or young adults transitioning out of high school to vocations. Students also benefit from scholarship money available through federal TEACH grants and Illinois funds.

## RESULTS

The special education profession offers rich employment opportunities, and many general educators move into special education to enhance their professional growth. Our outstanding programs produce exceptional special educators who are well prepared to serve in urban classrooms. Because of the chronic shortage of special educators, particularly in large urban districts, our graduates are in high demand.

## CONTACT INFO

Dr. Michelle Parker-Katz  
Program Coordinator  
Master’s Programs  
312-996-2539  
mparker@uic.edu

Ana Valenta  
MEd Programs Advisor  
312-355-0575  
agarcij5@uic.edu