UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH CONNECTICUT | USJ

Plan of Study: Master of Arts in Advanced Teaching in Special Education (Cross-Endorsement)

Name

Address *Street* *City* *State* *Zip Code*

Primary Phone **E-mail Address**

Goals and Focus of the Program:

The Master of Arts in Advanced Teaching in Special Education is designed for Connecticut-certified educators who want to deepen their expertise in supporting learners with disabilities across diverse K–12 settings. Grounded in current research and responsive to the real-world needs of today's classrooms, the program equips educators with advanced knowledge in assessment, instructional planning, behavioral support, and collaborative practices. Key focus areas include evidence-based interventions in reading and mathematics, mental and behavioral health strategies, inclusive and differentiated instruction, and assistive technology integration. The program is fully aligned with Connecticut Cross-Endorsement Regulations and leads to a cross-endorsement in Comprehensive Special Education, PreK–12 (#165 Endorsement).

Program Design:

Built for working educators, this fully online program combines the flexibility of asynchronous learning with the richness of live weekly online sessions. The program follows a cohort model for peer support and community. Courses are offered in eight-week blocks, one at a time and live class sessions meet one evening per week from 4:45 PM – 8:45 PM. This 30-credit hour program can be completed in approximately two years.

Prerequisites:

To apply, students must hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution (minimum GPA 2.5), have ongoing access to a classroom with students to complete required field-based assignments, and possess a valid Connecticut teaching certificate.

Degree Requirements and Career Outcome:

To earn the Master of Arts in Advanced Teaching in Special Education, students must successfully complete all required coursework, a course-embedded capstone project that synthesizes learning across the program. Upon completion students will be eligible to apply for cross-endorsement under Connecticut's Comprehensive Special Education, PreK–12 (#165) endorsement. **Please note: This program does not lead to initial teacher certification.** Individuals pursuing the #165 endorsement must also pass the Praxis 2 for Special Education (Core Knowledge and Mild to Moderate Applications) and the Pearson Foundations of Reading.

Course	Course Title	Start Week	End Week	Credits
SPEC 539	Universal Design for Learning: Proactive Inclusion for All Students	Mar. 1, 2027	Apr. 26, 2027	3
SPEC 561	Behavioral Interventions	May 3, 2027	Jun. 21, 2027	3
SPEC 554	Research-Based Math Interventions	Aug. 30, 2027	Oct. 18, 2027	3
SPEC 536	Embedded Practicum I **	Oct. 25, 2027	Dec. 13, 2027	3
SPEC 535	Laws and Special Education	Jan. 10, 2028	Feb. 28, 2028	3
SPEC 540	Reading Comprehension and Vocabulary Interventions	Mar. 6, 2028	May 1, 2028	3
SPEC 518	Designing Learning Experiences for Students with Low-Incidence Disabilities	May 8, 2028	Jun. 26, 2028	3
SPEC 526	Educational Assessment	Aug. 28, 2028	Oct. 16, 2028	3
SPEC 537	Embedded Practicum II **	Oct. 23, 2028	Dec. 11, 2028	3
SPEC 530	Research in Special Education*	Jan. 8, 2029	Feb. 26, 2029	3
*MASTER'S CAPSTONE PROJECT INCLUDED			**Total Credit Hours**	**30**

**IF THE EMBEDDED PRACTICUM IS NOT APPROVED, CANDIDATES MUST COMPLETE TWO SUMMER PRACTICUM COURSES (JUNE 21 – AUGUST 5, 2027 AND JUNE 26 – AUGUST 10, 2028).

PLAN OF STUDY AGREEMENT: (Initial each line, then sign and date)

☐ I have read and understand all information in the Student Information Packet, including important information regarding admissions, transferring credits, refunds, enrollment, and tuition and fees.

☐ I understand that this program will be delivered in a fully online format through a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning activities.

☐ I understand that participation in the embedded practicum courses requires an approved application confirming I meet all requirements. If my application is not approved, I will complete the two summer practicum courses instead.

☐ I understand the Online Masters for Teachers cohort requires all students to complete their coursework with grades of C or better.

☐ I understand that I can only re-take two courses, one time each.

☐ I understand that I am expected to submit a course evaluation at the conclusion of each course.

☐ I have read and understand this Plan of Study and agree to this Plan of Study Agreement.

Student Signature **Date**

Program Director Signature **Date**

The courses for this program may be offered in a different order. This list should not be considered the finalized course sequence.