

# SFA ONLINE

[sfaonline.sfasu.edu](http://sfaonline.sfasu.edu)

## Master of Education in Special Education Online Graduate Program (36 hours) (without certification)

### About the Program

The Masters of Special Education (without certification) offered through SFA ONLINE provides graduate level preparation for careers in state agencies that serve the needs of individuals with disabilities or school district certified teachers who desire to further their learning in the area of special education. The curriculum is designed in accordance with the national Council for Exceptional Children standards for special educators and state TExES standards for special education teachers. These frameworks are utilized to insure that candidates receive a comprehensive foundation of knowledge based on educational theory, research and best practice policies. The program uses a performance-based assessment system to rate student performance on key assessments in various classes in order to provide data for accreditation and for program improvement.

### Dates & Registration

Applications are accepted for each fall semester with some students being eligible for enrollment during a spring or summer semester. Please contact Dr. Paige Mask ([maskp@sfasu.edu](mailto:maskp@sfasu.edu)) or Dr. Summer Koltonski ([koltonsksl@sfasu.edu](mailto:koltonsksl@sfasu.edu)) about the availability of program entry during a spring or summer semester. A pre-admission process must be completed before admission to the program is granted. Applicants must meet [criteria for admission outlined by the SFASU Graduate School](#).

### How to Apply

Before you complete an application to the Graduate School at Stephen F. Austin State University, please complete the pre-admission process described below. Please do not submit a Graduate School application before completing these requirements, as the \$50 application fee is non-refundable. After the items below are gathered, please contact Dr. Paige Mask ([maskp@sfasu.edu](mailto:maskp@sfasu.edu)) or Dr. Summer Koltonski ([koltonsksl@sfasu.edu](mailto:koltonsksl@sfasu.edu)) to request a shared folder link where you will upload all of your pre-admission items. Dr. Mask and Dr. Koltonski will also be your contact for questions.

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Contact: Dr. Paige Mask

Email: [maskp@sfasu.edu](mailto:maskp@sfasu.edu)

Phone: 936.468.1076

Contact: Dr. Summer Koltonski

Email: [koltonsksl@sfasu.edu](mailto:koltonsksl@sfasu.edu)

Phone: 936.468.1215

1. Copy of undergraduate transcript(s) and, if applicable, graduate transcript(s).(if applicable) Copy of your teacher certifications, which may be obtained from the [State Board for Educator Certification](#).
2. Three letters of recommendation (two of a professional nature and one can be a community member who has known you for some time). Please make sure these letters are signed.
3. Current resume
4. Essay – a typed, double-spaced written statement (minimum 3-5 pages in length) describing your experience in the field of special education, your philosophy on educating students with special needs, and how personal qualities and educational experience would make you an exceptional candidate for the special education graduate program.
5. A video-recording introducing yourself to program faculty in a professional manner. This video is to be no longer than 4 minutes in duration. A free video recording resource may be found at [screencast-o-matic.com](#). Please include the following information in your video.
  - Name
  - Current employment
  - Years of teaching experience and types of teaching experiences (if applicable)
  - Teacher certifications (if applicable)
  - Qualities and competencies you possess that would make you a good candidate for our program and in your career
  - Statement regarding your ability and motivation to participate in a rigorous program.

When the above items have been completed and submitted, you may be asked to participate in a short, online video-conferencing interview session in which you will be asked up to five additional questions. You will access this interview via a provided web link. Once this process is completed and you been notified of your acceptance to the program, you may apply to the Graduate School via [ApplyTexas.org](#). Please complete the application as an M.Ed. in Special Education seeking student. Please do not submit a Graduate School application before completing these requirements, as the \$50 application fee is non-refundable.

Finally, if you did not receive your undergraduate degree from SFA, ensure that copies of your undergraduate and graduate (if applicable) transcripts are sent to the SFA Graduate School.

For more information about applying to the program, please contact Dr. Mask at [maskp@sfasu.edu](mailto:maskp@sfasu.edu) or Dr. Koltonski at [koltonsksl@sfasu.edu](mailto:koltonsksl@sfasu.edu).

## Costs & Financial Aid

Prospective students can calculate tuition and fee expenses by visiting the [SFA Tuition Calculator](#). Financial aid is available to those who qualify. For more information, please contact the [SFA Financial Aid Office](#) at (936) 468-2403.

The TEACH Grant provides scholarships to qualified individuals seeking to obtain an *initial* teacher certification degree in special education. More information about the TEACH Grant can be found on the [SFASU Financial Aid Office TEACH Grant website](#).

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