



## Master of Education: Special Education Certification – General Special Education (K-12)

### Keene State College Office of Graduate Studies

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The U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics 2010/11 Edition identifies continued need through 2018 for special education teachers due to rising enrollments of special education students and shortages of qualified teachers. As the demand for special education teachers continues to grow, teachers must be prepared with the necessary resources to assist students with learning differences.

Keene State College's M.Ed. in Special Education is designed for individuals interested in achieving certification in General Special Education and demonstrating that they possess the knowledge, skills and dispositions of seasoned professional special educators. The curriculum combines certification coursework, which includes 800 hours of school-based application for demonstration of competence, and culminates with the design and implementation of a practical research project that showcases an individual student's area of expertise and capacity for leadership.

The certification component follows the standards set forth by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), and the New Hampshire Department of Education.

### Program Highlights

- Program can be completed in one year (full-time) or two years (part-time).
- 32 to 38 credits are required. KSC elementary, early childhood, and secondary education majors who complete foundational special education coursework as part of their undergraduate degree may waive three to six credits.
- School-based professionals and KSC faculty collaborate to support and guide students through approved internships.

- Students demonstrate competence via two pre-approved 400-hour internships that occur in K-12 school settings during the fall and spring.
- Graduates of Granite State College may transfer credits earned through approved post-baccalaureate certification programs.

### Program Outcomes

With the guidance and support of faculty and field-based professionals, degree candidates will:

- acquire and apply the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively assist students with identified needs develop academic, social, and transition skills.
- design and implement instruction, assessment, and individualized programs for students and families.
- collaborate with special education stakeholders.
- celebrate diversity in the context of supporting individuals with disabilities.
- advocate for students with disabilities.
- develop belief and value systems that provide a focus for acting as special educators.
- reflect on practices and behaviors to improve overall effectiveness.

### For more information or to apply

Visit [www.keene.edu/gradstudies](http://www.keene.edu/gradstudies) or contact the Keene State College Graduate Studies Office:  
229 Main Street, Keene, NH 03435-2605  
603-358-2497  
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## About KSC

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Keene State College is New Hampshire's public liberal arts college, offering forty majors in the arts and humanities, sciences and social sciences, professional programs, and select graduate degrees.

For its 5,500 students, the college provides rigorous academic programs and a tradition of small classes, faculty-student collaborative research, and service learning. Chief among the college's priorities are preparing students for global citizenship and meaningful work, and catalyzing economic development through institutional partnerships across the region and state.

A leader in applying the principles of a liberal arts education to today's challenges, Keene State's innovative curriculum and focus on high-impact practices have won national praise, with The Princeton Review naming it a Green College and *U.S. News & World Report* ranking it as one of the top schools in the North (listed 25th in the Top Public Schools Masters University-North) and one of the thirty colleges that offer small classes on an affordable budget. KSC is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

## Graduate Study in Education at KSC

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Each year, Keene State College's graduate programs in education address the professional development needs of hundreds of aspiring and experienced educators. Our programs are known for helping adult learners become skilled and confident educational practitioners and leaders. The success of our students and programs is based, in part, upon a long and productive history of collaboration between KSC and our professional associates in pre-K to 12th grade schools. Year after year, schools welcome our advanced students into their classrooms. Our graduates are valued highly and are employed by public and private schools throughout New England and beyond.

## Accreditation

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Keene State College graduate programs in Education are grounded in standards developed by nationally recognized professional organizations and are accredited by one or more of the following agencies: the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), or the New Hampshire State Department of Education. In addition, each graduate program is framed using standards developed by a Specialty Professional Association (SPA) that delineates the knowledge, skills, and dispositions educators should possess. SPA standards are consistently used in KSC graduate programs for planning courses and field experiences, and establishing criteria for evaluating student performance and overall outcomes.

## Admissions

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Keene State College considers applications on a rolling admissions basis. Students are encouraged to apply up to six months in advance of scheduled classes.

Candidates for admission to a program of Graduate Study must submit the appropriate application, including required materials, to Graduate Admissions, 229 Main St, Keene NH 03435-2605.

Preference will be given to applications completed by MARCH 1 for programs that begin with SUMMER classes; APRIL 1 for programs that begin with FALL classes; and NOVEMBER 1 for programs that begin with SPRING classes.

Specific expectations for each graduate program are described on the Application for Graduate Study in Education which is available on the Graduate Studies website [www.keene.edu/gradstudies](http://www.keene.edu/gradstudies).

## Financing Your Education

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Students admitted into a graduate program are eligible to apply for financial assistance whether enrolled full-time or part-time. Candidates should complete the Free Application for Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA) online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) and visit the Student Financial Services website at [www.keene.edu/sfs/](http://www.keene.edu/sfs/) for more information. Requests for financial aid are evaluated after KSC receives FAFSA results and the applicant has been admitted into an approved program.

A limited number of graduate assistantships are available. Furthermore, a modest fellowship and scholarship exist to help qualified matriculated graduate students meet their educational expenses. Professional development funds may be available to individuals employed in a pre-K to 12 school or district.

For more information about financing your education, please visit [www.keene.edu/gradstudies](http://www.keene.edu/gradstudies).

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