

# University of Houston's M.Ed. In Special Populations & K-12 Leadership

Monday, March 24, 2025

Educational Leadership & Policy  
Studies UH at Katy Programs  
Information Session



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## Diagnostician Certification Director; Department Chair



**Dr. Kristen S. Hassett, NCSP**

Chair, Educational Leadership & Policy  
Studies

Clinical Professor of Special Populations

Affiliated Faculty, School Psychology

Faculty Affiliate, Rockwell Center on  
Ethics & Leadership

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## Special Populations Program Director



### Dr. Charlotte Carp

Clinical Assistant Professor, Special Populations Undergraduate, and M.Ed. Program Director

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## K-12 Leadership Program Director



### Dr. Keith Butcher

Program Director, K-12 Professional Leadership

Clinical Associate Professor

Faculty Affiliate, Rockwell Center on Ethics & Leadership

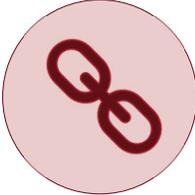
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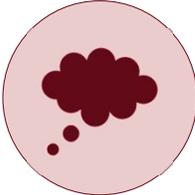
# Agenda



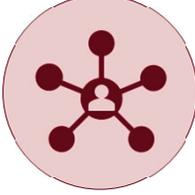
OVERVIEW



HELPFUL LINKS



QUESTIONS



BREAK OUT GROUPS



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## Our mission

To lead and **inspire generative transformations** of **learning, health, leadership** and well-being by developing new knowledge for an increasingly **diverse world**.



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## Programs at UH Katy

- Special Populations
  - M.Ed. In Special Populations – Applied Behavior Analysis
  - M.Ed. In Special Populations – Educational Diagnostician Certification
  - Educational Diagnostician ACP Certification
- K-12 Leadership
  - M.Ed. In Administration and Supervision
  - Principal Certification
  - Superintendent Certification



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## Helpful Links

[Application Requirements](#)

[Application Deadlines](#)

[Tuition Calculator](#)

[Apply Now](#)



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## Upcoming Event – Application Q&A

Virtual open office hours to ask questions about the application

April 21  
5:00 – 6:00

RSVP here!



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# M.Ed. In Special Populations



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## Why Special Populations?

- Behavioral, social, and academic interventions
- Support individuals with exceptionalities across the lifespan
- Multiple specialization areas related to a variety of career goals
- #20 Best Online Programs by **US News & World Report for 2025**
- #10 Best Online Master's in Special Education Degree Programs for 2024 by **Value Colleges**
- Texas had the **largest number of initial SPED evaluations** during the 2019-2020 school year (104,803)!



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## What Can I Do With My Degree?

### Title

- Educational diagnosticians
- EC-12 team leaders
- EC-12 department chairs
- EC-12 special education coordinators/administrators\*
- Behavior Analyst
- Clinic owner & operator
- Community college instructors

### Organization

- Public and private schools
- Educational and social agencies
- Foundations
- Public and private research organizations
- Residential facilities
- Charter schools (KIPP)
- Texas Education Agency (TEA)



*\*May need principal certification*

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## M.Ed. Special Populations Specializations at Katy



### ABA Specialization

- Three courses online and seven in-person
- Builds capacity for implementing behavioral interventions as a board-certified behavior analyst (BCBA)



### Educational Diagnostician Certification

- Content coursework online (30 hours)
- Certification coursework/activities in-person (12 hours)
- Prepares current educators for Educational Diagnostician certification and practice



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# Certification Pathways

-  **Accelerated** – post-masters alternative certification program
-  **Traditional**– M.Ed. in Special Populations + Educational Diagnostician Certification



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# Program Steps

-   
**APPLICATION/ADMISSIONS**
-   
**COURSEWORK**
-   
**COMPREHENSIVE EXAM\***

*\*No exam needed for Educational Diagnostician ACP*



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## Application Deadlines

- Accelerated Educational Diagnostician
  - April 15 (summer)
  - May 1 (fall)
- M.Ed. for Fall 2025
  - April 1 (international)
  - May 1 (domestic)



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## Application/Admissions Details

- Requirements
  - Bachelor's degree earned from an accredited institution of higher education
  - GPA: preferred minimum of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in upper division undergraduate coursework.
    - TEA requires a minimum GPA of 2.5 for certification programs.
  - Official transcripts sent to UH (see Step 3 [here](#))
  - Three letters of recommendation
  - Statement of intent (see specific directions [here](#))
  - Resume or Curriculum Vitae
  - *Diagnostician program also requires 1) current, valid teaching certificate and evidence of creditable teaching service and 2) a formal certification application*
- Deadlines
  - April 1, 2025 for international applicants
  - May 1, 2025 for domestic applicants
- Apply here



*\*Special Education Certification, Educational Diagnostician certification only, and Educational Diagnostician ACP*

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## Application Checklist (M. Ed.)

### ✓ ApplyWeb Application

- ✓ Degree/Transcript from an accredited institution of higher education
  - ✓ Master's degree for the certification-only program
  - ✓ Bachelor's degree for the M.Ed. program
- ✓ GPA: preferred minimum of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in upper division undergraduate coursework and graduate coursework. TEA requires a minimum GPA of 2.5.
  - ✓ GRE ( not required, but suggested if GPA is lower than 3.0)
- ✓ Three letters of recommendation
- ✓ Statement of intent
- ✓ Resume or Curriculum Vitae
- ✓ **Formal Admissions Application (Diag)**
  - ✓ State of Texas Educator's Certificate showing a currently valid teaching certificate
  - ✓ Three years creditable teaching service



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## Statement of Intent (Diag)

- What are your skills and aptitudes related to working with special populations? Include a discussion of your experiences, strengths and weaknesses, skillset, and plan for the future.
- Why do you want to become an educational diagnostician?
- What is your philosophy for working with students with special needs?
- What role should assessment have in the schools?
- What is your reflective process?
- Explain how you meet the prerequisites for the program.



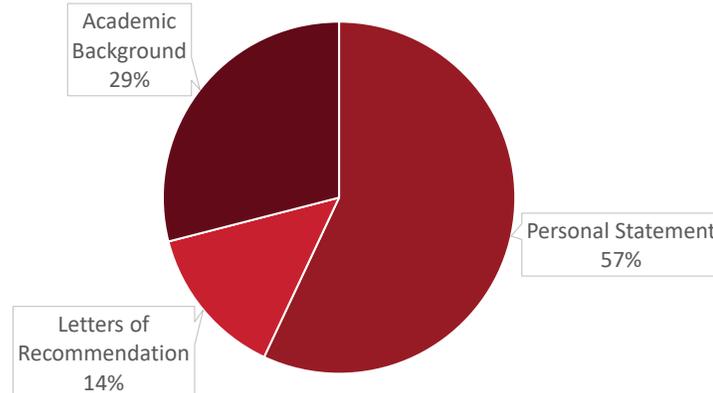
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## Statement of Intent (ABA)

- What are your skills and aptitudes related to working with special populations? Include a discussion of your experiences, strengths and weaknesses, and skillset.
- Discuss a previous experience where you worked directly with an individual with disabilities that impacted you deeply. What did you learn from that experience, and how did it help you grow both professionally and personally? Describe a time when you had to adapt your approach to meet the unique needs of an individual with a disability. How did you modify your strategy, and what was the outcome?
- What attracted you to pursue a degree in Applied Behavior Analysis specifically, as opposed to other fields within the realm of disability services or psychology? How do you envision using the knowledge and skills gained through an ABA degree in your future career? What kind of work environment or role do you hope to pursue after completing the program?

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## Admission Rubric



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# Accelerated Certification Program Information

## Format: Hybrid (online and face-to-face courses)

- Assessment Courses – summer course is online, asynchronous; fall/spring courses are face to face (typically Mondays 5:30-8:30)
- Practicum Courses – arrange in district

## Online, Non-Credit Content

- Special Education Content, Learning Sciences, and Measurement modules and key assessments
- Instruction/training required by the State

## Coursework + Practicum

- More detail on the next few slides

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# Canvas Modules

## Special Education Content

- Foundations
- Instruction
- Behavior
- Consultation

## Learning

- Learning Sciences

## Measurement

- Assessment & measurement

## TEA-Specific Training Components

- Professional practice
- Dyslexia
- Mental Health
- Digital Literacy

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## Coursework Overview

- **Master's Coursework (30 hours, 10 classes)**
  - Education Core Courses (9 hours, 3 classes)
  - Specialization Coursework (21 hours, 7 classes)
    - Varies by specialization area
  - Complete in approximately 4 – 5 semester
  
- **Certification Coursework (12 hours, 4 classes)**
  - Special Education Certification
  - Educational Diagnostician Certification
  - Complete in approximately 6 semesters



*\*Coursework is different for Educational Diagnostician AC*

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## Certification Coursework



### Assessment Content

SPEC 7341 Assessment of Learning Difficulties  
 SPEC 7340 Assessment of Academic Achievement  
 SPEC 7392 Assessment of Intellectual Abilities



### Practica

SPEC 7394 Educational Diagnostician Practicum I  
 SPEC 7395 Educational Diagnostician Practicum II



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160 hours

SPEC 7394 – 60 hours, taken during or after SPEC 7340  
SPEC 7395 – 100 hours, taken during or after SPEC 7392



Public, public charter, or accredited private school



District/campus provides *site supervisor* (aka mentor)



UH provides *field supervisor*



Observations, attending MTSS/ARD/consultation meetings, review assessment results with parents/teachers, direct testing, report writing, etc.

## Practicum Requirements



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## Course Timeline

Summer  
2025

- SPEC 7341
- Canvas modules

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Fall  
2025

- SPEC 7340
- SPEC 7394

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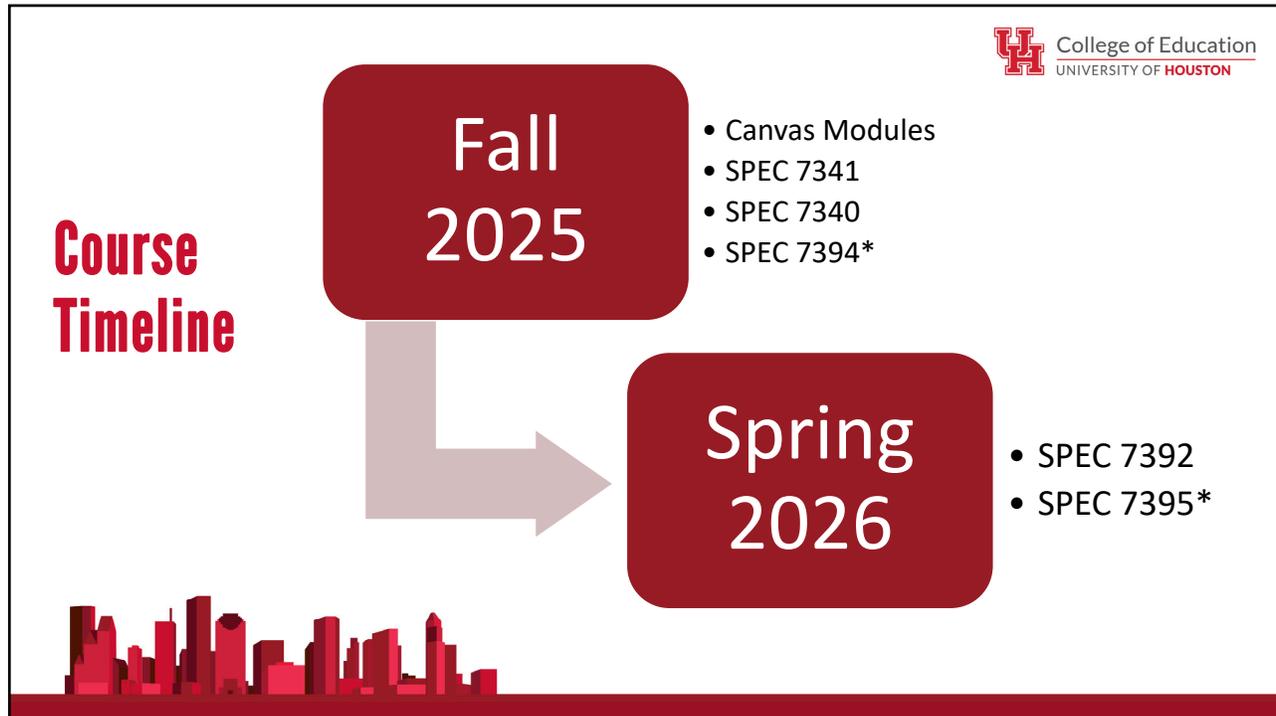
Spring  
2026

- SPEC 7392
- SPEC 7395

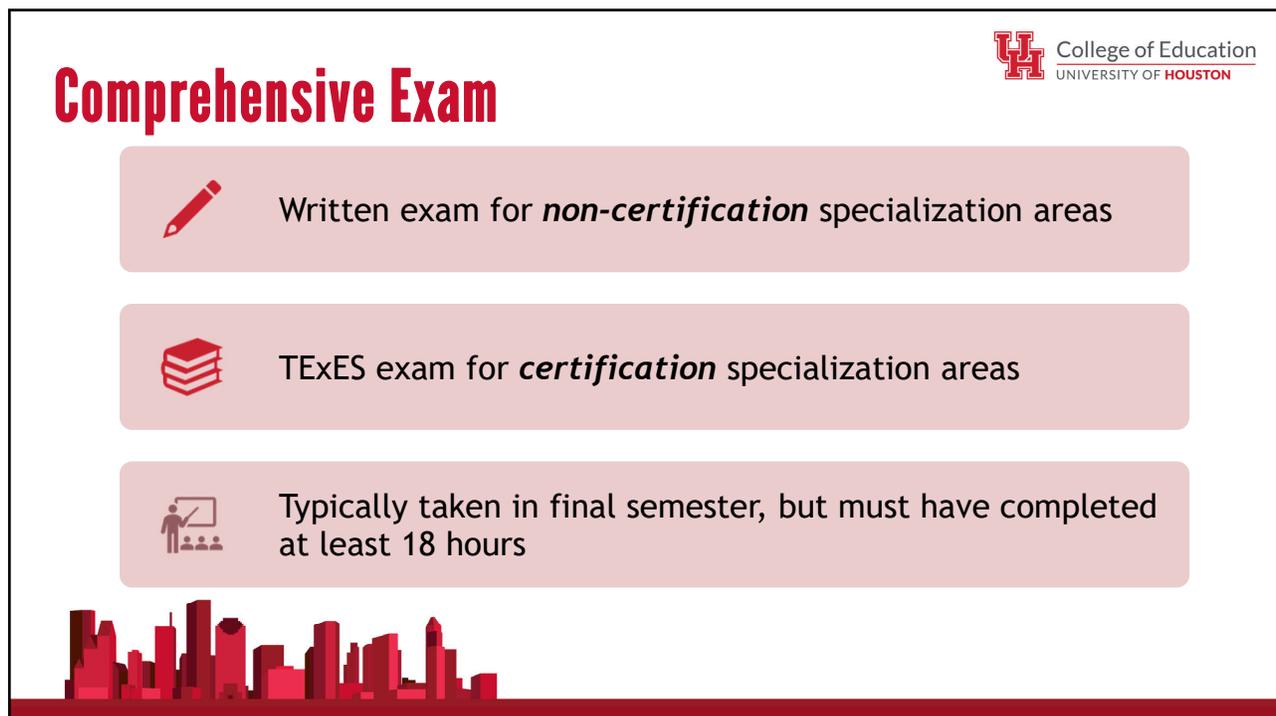


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## TE<sub>EX</sub>ES 253



Qualifying exam taken during final course, SPEC 7392

No minimum score required

TE<sub>EX</sub>ES 253 typically taken in final semester



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## Funding Graduate School



- Apply for FAFSA
- Graduate School Fund
- COE Scholarships (for continuing students)

*\*Financial aid not available for certification only programs*



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# Financial Aid – Accelerated Ed. Diagnostician

Certificate programs at UH are not eligible for UH financial aid

Billie P. Spellman Scholarship for Graduate Studies (PDK)

The Dr. Ralph Hausman TEDA Scholarship



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# Tuition and Fees

### Estimated Costs Per Semester

Tuition and Consolidated Fees	\$1468.23 - \$1158.00
Mandatory Fee - Student Service Fee	\$226.00
Mandatory Fee - Online Education Fee	\$274.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1968.23 - \$1658.00</b>

### Estimated Costs Per Semester

Tuition and Consolidated Fees	\$2936.46 - \$2316.00
Mandatory Fee - Student Service Fee	\$260.00
Mandatory Fee - University Center Fee	\$135.00
Mandatory Fee - Recreation and Wellness	\$121.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$3452.46 - \$2832.00</b>



UH [Tuition Calculator](#)



**Certification Fee - \$1,200 Diagnostician certification fee (\$600 semester 1, \$600 semester 2)**

TEA fees, consumable materials, software platforms, field supervision, etc.



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# K-12 Leadership



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## K-12 Professional Leadership Program – UH Katy

- M.Ed. in Administration and Supervision
- Accelerated Principal Certification
- Accelerated Superintendent Certification



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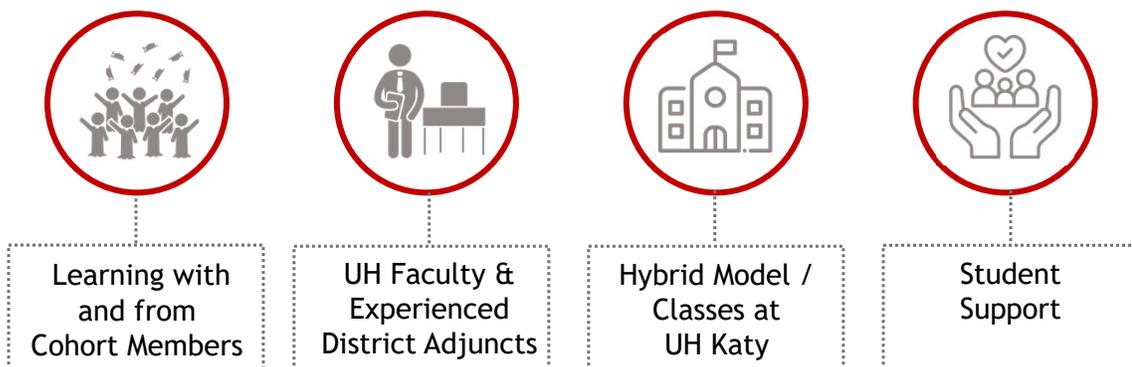
## Cohort Model

- Candidates enroll as members of a cohort
- Cohort models provide a team or community support while building stronger professional bonds
- All courses are hybrid (generally 51% online and 49% face to face)
- Students engage with UH faculty and district adjunct faculty
- Every course includes applied leadership learning experiences.
- Support for completing all internship requirements and passing certification exam(s) is embedded in coursework.



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## Why Choose UH Programs at UH Katy?



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# M.Ed. In Administration and Supervision



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## Program Entrance Requirements

M.Ed. in Administration and Supervision  
Fall 2025 Application Deadline May 1st

- Bachelor's degree
- Valid Texas Teacher Certification
- Two years of creditable teaching experience
- NO GRE score



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## Program Requirements

### M.Ed. in Administration and Supervision

- 30 hours (10 courses)
- 5 semesters
- Hybrid course design
- Requires a comprehensive exam
  - TExES 268 Exam, or
  - Program Portfolio
- Principal practicum requirements embedded
- Certification exam preparation embedded

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## Principal Cert. Practicum Requirements

- Practicum requirements:
  - 160 internship hours
  - 3 field observations
  - 3 mentor evaluations
  - 3 candidate self-evaluations
- Passage of two Texas Principal Certification Exams
  - TExES 268 Principal as Instructional Leader
  - TExES 368 Performance Assessment for School Leaders

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# Accelerated Principal Certification



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## Program Entrance Requirements

Accelerated Principal Certification  
Fall 2025 Application Deadline May 1st

- Master's degree
- Valid Texas Teaching Certification
- Two years of creditable teaching experience
- NO GRE score



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## Program Requirements

### Accelerated Principal Certification

- 18 hours (6 courses)
- 3 semesters
- Hybrid course design
- Requires a comprehensive exam
  - TExES 268 Exam, or
  - Program Portfolio
- Principal practicum requirements embedded
- Certification exam preparation embedded

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## Principal Cert. Practicum Requirements

- Practicum requirements:
  - 160 internship hours
  - 3 field observations
  - 3 mentor evaluations
  - 3 candidate self-evaluations
- Passage of two Texas Principal Certification Exams
  - TExES 268 Principal as Instructional Leader
  - TExES 368 Performance Assessment for School Leaders

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# Accelerated Superintendent Certification



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## Program Entrance Requirements

Accelerated Superintendent Certification  
Fall 2025 Application Deadline May 1st

- Masters's degree
- Valid Texas Principal Certification
- NO GRE score



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## Program Requirements

### Accelerated Superintendent Certification

- 15 hours (5 courses)
- 2 semesters
- Hybrid course design
- Superintendent practicum requirements embedded
- Certification exam preparation embedded



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### Superintendent Cert. Practicum Requirements

- Practicum requirements:
  - 160 internship hours
  - 3 field observations
  - 3 mentor evaluations
  - 3 candidate self-evaluations
- Passage of Texas Superintendent Certification Exam
  - TExES 195 Superintendent Certification



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## Funding Graduate School

- Apply for FAFSA
  - *\*Financial aid not available for certification only programs*
- Graduate School Fund
- COE Scholarships (for continuing students)

APPLY



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## Questions



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