The master’s degree program in Special Education Gifted and Talented is designed to equip you with the skills you need to nurture gifted and talented youth. As an educator in this specialty area, it is vital that you understand the challenges that gifted students experience in learning, growth and development.

In addition to working with students recognized as gifted through standardized test results, teachers certified in the area of gifted and talented help identify children who demonstrate an aptitude to excel but lack the advanced vocabulary skills necessary to achieve high test scores.

Coursework for the 30-credit-hour MA program is delivered in a variety of formats including weekend, online, and web-assisted classes. The web-assisted format combines face-to-face and online learning reducing the number of times students must travel to campus. Meeting on campus provides you with the opportunity to network with peers and faculty. Teachers with current certification in any area are eligible for the program.

**APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN**

During your final summer semester, you and your classmates will participate in a four-week intensive summer enrichment workshop where you will work with children enrolled in gifted programs in Tuscaloosa and the surrounding counties. You will have the opportunity to use the knowledge and skills acquired through previous coursework to evaluate students’ needs, and plan and deliver engaging thematic instruction—all the while under the mentorship of your instructors and master teachers from around the state.
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for admission to the MA in Special Education Gifted and Talent program, you must meet the following requirements:

• Hold Alabama Class B teacher certification or equivalent
• A minimum of 300 on the combined verbal and quantitative sections of the revised GRE (a score of 1000 if taken prior to August 2011) or a score no lower than the 50th percentile on the MAT

An application package consists of the following:

• Graduate School application
• Statement of purpose (completed online)
• Three letters of recommendation
• Official transcripts from all institutions attended

Students are admitted every semester.

CURRICULUM

Required Courses

• **SPE 581**: Psychology of Gifted and Talented Children and Youth
• **SPE 582**: Teaching the Gifted and Talented
• **SPE 583**: Creative Problem Solving Seminar
• **SPE 584**: Special Populations in Gifted Education
• **SPE 585**: Teaching Thinking Skills: Integrating Programs
• **SPE 589**: Internship in Gifted and Talented - Summer Enrichment Workshop
• **SPE 589**: Internship in Gifted and Talented (or 3 approved hours from a previous Class A master’s-level certification program)
• **SPE 501**: Diagnosis and Assessment of Exceptional Children and Youth
• **Foundations Course** - approved by advisor

Electives

• **SPE 606**: Topical Seminar in Special Education: Bibliotherapy for Exceptional Students - suggested course; other electives must be approved by advisor.

*SPE 500: Introduction to Exceptional Children and Youth is required for those who have not taken a special education survey course. This course does not count towards the program’s 30 credit hours.*

Total = 30 credit hours