

Special Education (M.Ed.)

The right to play on any field. You have earned it. The right to study in any school. You have earned it. The right to hold a job. You have earned it. The right to be anyone's neighbor. You have earned it.

—Eunice Kennedy Shriver

Programs in the Department of Special Education (SPED) are for people who want to improve the lives of children and youth with disabilities. Long ranked as the top special education program in the nation by U.S. News & World Report, SPED has a reputation for teaching, conducting groundbreaking research, establishing innovative practices, and developing widely used methods.

Master's students join in field work and research projects, collaborate with faculty and other students on important initiatives, participate in colloquia with experts from various disciplines, and supervise undergraduate students' field experiences. SPED is closely associated with the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Research on

Human Development, one of 14 national centers for research on intellectual and development disabilities. This relationship allows students to benefit from the many available resources and programs.

Because there is a shortage of qualified special education professionals, most graduate students are fully funded through U.S. Department of Education grants. Graduates typically receive multiple offers of employment.



Program Areas

- **Early Childhood**—for students who want to serve infants, toddlers, young children, and their families who deal with a wide range of developmental delays including cognitive, communication, social, adaptive behavior, and motor skills
- **High Incidence**—for those intending to become intervention specialists for children and young adults with reading and math disabilities and persistent behavior problems
- **Severe Disabilities**—for those who wish to focus on working with students with intellectual disability, autism, multiple disabilities, and other significant needs
- **Visual Disabilities**—for future teachers who want to provide access to the general curriculum and to teach the expanded core curriculum for students with visual impairments, including those with multiple disabilities

Specialization

- **Applied Behavior Analysis**—for students who want to conduct functional behavioral assessments, write behavior intervention programs, and consult and carry out those intervention programs for children and young adults across disability conditions with social and behavioral difficulties.



Department Admissions Coordinator

Alfred Brady,
graduate admissions coordinator,
alfred.l.brady@vanderbilt.edu
615-322-8195

How to Apply

Visit apply.vanderbilt.edu
There is no fee to apply online.

For more information, visit
peabody.vanderbilt.edu

Priority Application Deadline

December 31 for summer or
fall entrance

Office of Graduate Admissions

615-322-8410
peabody.admissions@vanderbilt.edu

PMB 407833
2301 Vanderbilt Place
Nashville, Tennessee 37240-7833

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