



Program Handbook

Master of Science in Deaf Education Program

REVISED COPY

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Lamar University

Beaumont, Texas

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Introduction

The Master of Science program in Deaf Education handbook, graduate catalog, and official university website provide information concerning policies and procedures for students in the Master of Science program in Deaf Education. The student is responsible for reading all literature on the Deaf Studies program, College of Graduate Studies, College of Fine Arts and Communications, and Lamar University policies and procedures.

The Master of Science program in Deaf Education emphasizes an ASL/English Bilingual Education approach to pedagogy. This philosophy is evident throughout the curriculum, through course content and practical applications. The philosophy is one that views Deafness as a cultural and linguistic entity and employs a comprehensive approach to services for students who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. American Sign Language is utilized to promote cognitive, linguistic, and academic development through visual-gestural modalities, as well as the printed form of English.

General admissions requirements can be found in the graduate catalog and on the university website. After the student has been accepted by the College of Graduate Studies, and the Department of Deaf Education, the student meets with the Director of the Master of Science program in Deaf Education (or a designated representative). The Director will provide a comprehensive program orientation, giving an overview of the curriculum, expectations, and resources available to students. The Director will also assist the students in selecting courses for their first semester, ensuring that the students understand how to register and follow the program plan to successfully meet their academic and professional goals. In addition, the Director will serve as the students' faculty academic advisor, offering ongoing support and advice throughout their graduate studies. The Director's role is vital in guiding students through the complex procedural and policy requirements of the program, reminding them of important deadlines, and helping them stay on track with their degree completion. Furthermore, the Director will inform students about various types of financial support and scholarships that may be available to help fund their education. This foundational guidance is designed to establish a solid platform for the student's successful progression through the program, offering clarity, direction, and assistance from the outset of their graduate journey.

Master of Science Program in Deaf Education

The Master of Science program in Deaf Education provides students with the opportunity to explore, research, and critically analyze Deaf ways of being within historical and theoretical contexts. Students are expected to examine and critique existing knowledge and contribute to new knowledge related to Deaf communities, their sign languages, and effective educational

practices. The program emphasizes understanding Deaf cultural identity, linguistic diversity, and inclusive teaching strategies, all aimed at improving educational outcomes and advocacy for Deaf learners.

Students will take courses focusing on Deaf culture, history, bilingual and multilingual theories, literacy development, disability studies, linguistics, assessments, psychology and behavior management, STEM teaching, Deaf centered pedagogy, public policy, and advocacy. This program will increase the knowledge of Deaf Education in students that will better prepare them for work in a variety of fields related to Deaf Education in the United States.

Admission to the Master of Science program in Deaf Education is marked by several milestones listed below. Students are expected to accomplish Program Learning Outcomes throughout all stages of their master's studies.

Admission Process

1. Take the GRE and meet the institutional GRE and GPA standards.
2. Apply for admission to the program through www.applytexas.org
3. A minimum 3.0 GPA in undergraduate is required.
4. A minimum ASLPI score of 3.0 is expected as program graduates are expected to be skilled in American Sign Language, which is the mode of instruction.
5. Three letters of recommendations
6. Admission interview with DSDE faculty
7. Acceptance to the program
8. Completion of coursework
9. Completion of Capstone or Certificate requirements
10. Graduation from the program.

Acceptance

Once a student formally enters the program, the Program Director will meet with the student and conduct the initial advising. This advising includes review of the student's program plan and recommendations for courses to take in the summer, fall, and spring semesters. The Program Director will serve as the academic advisor for all students throughout their graduate studies program.

Forms

All forms mentioned in this handbook can be found at [Lamar's College of Graduate Studies Forms](#) page.

Transfer Credits

Transfer credits must be submitted to the Director of the Program and approved within the student's first semester of study in the program. Approval is required from both the Director and Department Chair. Only six credits are allowed to be transferred. A copy of the transcript with course descriptions (if requested) must be submitted with [Form G-6: Transfer Credit](#) to Graduate Studies office.

Progress Through the Master of Science program in Deaf Education

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates from the Master of Science program in Deaf Education will:

1. Students will obtain Deaf Education and Content Area certifications.
2. Students will utilize their knowledge and skills in career preparation for obtaining employment.
3. Students will demonstrate evidence of learning from this program through portfolios of their coursework and clinical teaching or on-the-job internships.

Tracks within the Master of Science program in Deaf Education

There are two main tracks offered as part of the Master of Science program in Deaf Education. The differences in the two tracks are explained below.

Capstone Track

Although the Master of Science program in Deaf Education goal is to prepare teachers for the K-12 program, some students' goal is not to work with K-12 Deaf students but to work within a field related to Deaf Education. Currently, capstone track students complete the same course work as students in the certification track. The only difference is students pursuing teacher certification are required to take pedagogy courses and participate in clinical teaching or internship. Students following the capstone track are required to complete a capstone project which includes a portfolio of their coursework before graduation.

Teacher Certification Track

The Master of Science program in Deaf Education degree provides certification in Deaf Education (EC-12). Graduates from the Master of Science program in Deaf Education are prepared to teach in Early Childhood through 12th grade settings and are employed in residential and mainstreamed programs throughout the United States. Upon completion of the program, pre-service teachers are eligible to apply for certification from the Texas Education Agency and are accredited by the Council on Education of the Deaf (CED), which is aligned with the Council of Exceptional Children (CEC) and National Council for Accreditation of Texas Education (NCATE). Most students in the program are pursuing teacher certification.

Required Courses for Major

Core Courses - 33 Hours

DSDE 5313 Speech & Audiology
DSDE 5322 STEM Teaching in Deaf Education
DSDE 5328 Deaf Students with Disabilities
DSDE 5333 21st Century Deaf Education: New Models and Applications
DSDE 5311 Classroom Applications of Linguistics in ASL
DSDE 5319 Literacy: Strategies for Effective Reading and Writing
DSDE 5326 Educational Psychology
DSDE 5332 Behavioral Management
DSDE 5318 Bilingual Theories
DSDE 5320 ASL / English Assessments
DSDE 5331 Reggio Emilia: Engaging Preschool and Primary School Children
DSDE 5309 Advanced Practicum

Pedagogy-18 Hours with 1-year Internship

PEDG 5367 Multicultural Education
PEDG 5330 Effective Teaching & The Learning Process
PEDG 5387 Elementary Level Reading*
PEDG 5375 Reading in the Content Area*
PEDG 5344 Educational Law
PEDG 5345 Instructional Design & Assessment
PEDG 5383 Internship I: First Semester & Internship II: Second Semester

*Choose either PEDG 5387 Elementary Level Reading or PEDG 5375 Reading in Content Area

Class Schedule

The Master of Science program in Deaf Education is a hybrid program designed to offer maximum flexibility for students balancing home, work, and school commitments. Each cohort starts their graduate journey in the summer semester. To foster community and facilitate direct interaction, students participate in a program orientation at the beginning of the first week of summer classes in early June, held at the Texas School for the Deaf campus, where they meet instructors and cohort members in person. After this initial week, all coursework is conducted entirely online, which is delivered in an asynchronous format, enabling students to engage with class materials and complete assignments at their own pace. This provides students with a flexible, accessible, and engaging learning experience.

The summer session comprises a seven-week session that is split into two smaller sessions, which are each three and a half weeks. The start of the summer session typically occurs the first week of June and end the last week of July. Each coursework session is 3-4 weeks. We offer two

courses in the first session (June) and two courses in the second session (July). Specific dates for the summer classes are provided upon acceptance into the program. During the first summer session, students are required to attend classes physically on campus for the first week.

The fall and spring semesters each consist of 15 weeks, during which all coursework are completed asynchronously. Four courses are offered in the Fall semester, and four courses in the Spring semester. For students pursuing certification, all pedagogy courses are offered during the summer sessions. Additionally, Internship I is offered in the Fall and Internship II takes place in the Spring. The following program plan will indicate when courses are offered.

Program Plan

A program plan should be developed in consultation with the Program Director within your first semester of study. The plan will guide your coursework throughout the program and assist in keeping you on track with all program requirements and expected Program Learning Outcomes. You are responsible to make plans for your coursework, specify credit transfers ahead of time with your program director (course number, course title, credits) for approval, and track your grades on the program plan for your records.

There are two tracks in the Master of Science program in Deaf Education: Capstone track and Certification track. The capstone track is for students who aspire to pursue further studies in Deaf Education, those who already have a teaching certification or want to gain employment within a field related to Deaf Education. The certification track is for students who plan to pursue a teaching certification in Deaf Education.

Program Plan: Two Tracks

The differences between the Teacher Certification and Capstone tracks are indicated below by how many credits are required to meet the degree requirements.

Teacher Certification Track:

Required Courses	Semester/Credit Hours
DSDE 5313: Speech & Audiology	Summer – 3 hours
DSDE 5322: STEM Teaching	Summer – 3 hours
DSDE 5328: Deaf Students with Disabilities	Summer – 3 hours
DSDE 5333: 21st Century Deaf Education: New Models and Applications	Summer – 3 hours
DSDE 5311: Classroom Applications of Linguistics in ASL	Fall – 3 hours
DSDE 5319: Literacy: Strategies for Effective Reading and Writing	Fall – 3 hours
DSDE 5326: Educational Psychology	Fall – 3 hours
DSDE 5332: Behavioral Management	Fall – 3 hours
DSDE 5318: Bilingual Theories	Spring – 3 hours
DSDE 5320: ASL/English Assessments	Spring – 3 hours
DSDE 5331: Reggio Emilia: Engaging Preschool and Primary School Children	Spring – 3 hours
DSDE 5309: Advanced Practicum	Spring – 3 hours
PEDG 5367 Multicultural Education	Summer – 3 hours
PEDG 5330: Effective Teaching & The Learning Process	Summer – 3 hours
PEDG 5387 Elementary Level Reading or PEDG 5375 Reading in the Content Area	Fall/Spring/Summer - 3 hours
PEDG 5344: Educational Law	Fall/Spring/Summer - 3 hours
PEDG 5383: Internship I	Fall/Spring- 3 hours
PEDG 5384: Internship II	Fall/Spring- 3 hours
	TOTAL: 54 credit hours

Note: Pedagogy courses are required for state certification. Additional courses may be required for certification as per candidate's area of specialization.

Additional Information: Master of Science in Deaf Education Teacher Certification Track

For students choosing to focus on obtaining their Master of Science in Deaf Education to become a teacher of the Deaf is covered in the [Teacher Certification](#) Track document.

Capstone Track

Required Courses	Semester/Credit Hours
DSDE 5313: Speech & Audiology	Summer – 3 hours
DSDE 5322: STEM Teaching	Summer – 3 hours
DSDE 5328: Deaf Students with Disabilities	Summer – 3 hours
DSDE 5333: 21st Century Deaf Education: New Models and Applications	Summer – 3 hours
DSDE 5311: Classroom Applications of Linguistics in ASL	Fall – 3 hours
DSDE 5319: Literacy: Strategies for Effective Reading and Writing	Fall – 3 hours
DSDE 5326: Educational Psychology	Fall – 3 hours
DSDE 5332: Behavioral Management	Fall – 3 hours
DSDE 5318: Bilingual Theories	Spring – 3 hours
DSDE 5320: ASL/English Assessments	Spring – 3 hours
DSDE 5331: Reggio Emilia: Engaging Preschool and Primary School Children	Spring – 3 hours
	TOTAL: 33 credit hours

Additional Information: Master of Science in Deaf Education Capstone Track

For students choosing to focus on obtaining their Master of Science in Deaf Education with the objective of continuing their Deaf Education studies is covered in the [Capstone Track](#) document.

**Sequence of Courses: DSDE Master of Science program in Deaf Education
Certification Track**

Year 1: Summer 1

Category	Course #	Course Title	Credits/Grade
DSDE	5313	Speech and Audiology	3
DSDE	5322	STEM Teaching	3

Year 1: Summer 2

Category	Course #	Course Title	Credits/Grade
DSDE	5328	Deaf Students with Disabilities	3
DSDE	5333	21 st Century Deaf Education: New Models and Applications	3

Year 1: Fall

Category	Course #	Course Title	Credits/Grade
DSDE	5311	Classroom Applications of Linguistics in ASL	3
DSDE	5319	Literacy: Strategies for Effective Reading and Writing	3
DSDE	5326	Educational Psychology	3
DSDE	5332	Behavioral Management	3

Year 1: Spring

Category	Course #	Course Title	Credits/Grade
DSDE	5318	Bilingual Theories	3
DSDE	5320	ASL / English Assessments	3
DSDE	5331	Reggio Emilia: Engaging Preschool and Primary School Children	3
DSDE	5309	Advanced Practicum	3

Year 2: These courses are offered in summer/fall/spring unless otherwise noted*

Category	Course #	Course Title	Credits/Grade
PEDG	5367	Multicultural Education	3
PEDG	5330	Effective Teaching & The Learning Process	3

PEDG	5387 or 5375	Elementary Level Reading or Reading in the Content Area	3
PEDG	5344	Educational Law	
PEDG	5383	Internship I	3
PEDG	5384	Internship II	3
			Total: 54

**Sequence of Courses: DSDE Master of Science program in Deaf Education
Capstone Track**

Year 1: Summer 1

Category	Course #	Course Title	Credits/Grade
DSDE	5313	Speech and Audiology	3
DSDE	5322	STEM Teaching	3

Year 1: Summer 2

Category	Course #	Course Title	Credits/Grade
DSDE	5328	Deaf Students with Disabilities	3
DSDE	5333	21 st Century Deaf Education: New Models and Applications	3

Year 1: Fall

Category	Course #	Course Title	Credits/Grade
DSDE	5311	Classroom Applications of Linguistics in ASL	3
DSDE	5319	Literacy: Strategies for Effective Reading and Writing	3
DSDE	5326	Educational Psychology	3
DSDE	5332	Behavioral Management	3

Year 1: Spring

Category	Course #	Course Title	Credits/Grade
DSDE	5318	Bilingual Theories	3

DSDE	5320	ASL / English Assessments	3
DSDE	5331	Reggio Emilia: Engaging Preschool and Primary School Children	3
			Total: 33

Lamar University Graduate Academic Policies and Procedures

Information about Graduate Academic Policies and Procedures can be found on Lamar University's website: [Graduate Academic Policies and Procedures](#)

The website covers the following:

Regulations and Policies

This covers matters related to Student Responsibility and Health Insurance.

Academic Policies of the College of Graduate Studies

This section covers the policies and regulations of the College of Graduate Studies for all graduate students.

General Degree Requirements

This provides an overview of what students should be aware of regarding their degrees.

Candidacy Requirements for Degrees

This section covers the requirements for all graduate students who are not considered to be candidates for a degree until they have completed a specified set of graduate courses and have proven their academic capability.

Academic Committees - Appointment and Modification

This section covers information related to advisory committees which are required for students who choose the thesis track, which is covered in the Thesis and Other Requirements section.

Non-Thesis Requirements

This section covers information related to students who choose the certification track.

Special Topic Projects

This section applies to students who choose not to pursue either the thesis or the certification tracks.

Graduation Procedure

This section applies to all students who intend to graduate at the end of a particular semester.