



# SPECIAL EDUCATION

**PURDUE UNIVERSITY®**  
**FORT WAYNE**

**GRADUATE STUDIES**  
**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN**  
**SPECIAL EDUCATION**

[PFW.EDU/GRADUATE](http://PFW.EDU/GRADUATE)



# A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the graduate programs in special education at Purdue Fort Wayne! We have a variety of options to help you gain the required knowledge and skills to apply for an Indiana License in Mild Intervention.

Our graduate program in special education is a hybrid program; with a variety of course delivery formats.

We feel this hybrid method allows for schedule flexibility as well as hands-on learning and in-depth conversations about important concepts in special education.

Please review this information for your options and contact us. We would love to talk with you about how to advance your career possibilities in special education.

*Jane Leatherman*



**Jane Leatherman, Ph.D**

Associate Professor  
Special Education Graduate Program Director  
leatherj@pfw.edu



# BENEFITS

## MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SPECIAL EDUCATION (30 CREDIT HOURS)

- Purdue Fort Wayne is the only public university in the Northeast Indiana region that offers this degree path
- Courses are designed for working teachers and offered hybrid and online
- The program leads to a Mild Intervention license
- Designed to produce teacher candidates who are able to read, interpret, and apply research in the special education classroom
- Choice of a thesis or special project to complete your master's degree
- 60-hour field experience requirement for the master's program provides students an opportunity to apply skills in a classroom setting. If you are currently employed by a school system, arrangements can be made for the 60 hours to be incorporated into the duties of the classroom or school.

## MILD INTERVENTION LICENSURE OPTION (18 CREDIT HOURS)

- Ideal for teachers who have already obtained a general education teaching license
- Graduates of the program are eligible to apply for the Mild Intervention License through the State of Indiana, which includes Learning Disabilities, Mild and Moderate Intellectual Disabilities, Autism Spectrum Disorders, and Emotional and Behavioral Disorders
- Program emphasizes proven research practices, field experience, small classes, and close interactions with faculty with K-12 experience
- All classes are offered hybrid or online

## TRANSITION TO TEACHING SPECIAL EDUCATION (24 CREDIT HOURS)

- Option for professionals without a teaching license but who have completed a 4-year degree
- Upon completion can lead to an Indiana Department of Education teacher license in the area of Special Education when all criteria are met

## THE PURDUE FORT WAYNE DIFFERENCE

Stand out with a graduate degree that enhances your qualifications through:

- Small class sizes
- Personal attention from dedicated faculty
- Course offerings designed for working adults
- Internationally recognized degree at a fraction of the cost

"I am currently employed in a local middle school as a resource teacher, but I had been looking for a way to extend my teaching repertoire and knowledge of students with exceptionalities. After looking into several schools around Indiana, I decided to attend Purdue Fort Wayne. I chose Purdue Fort Wayne because it gave me the opportunity to attain my license in Mild Intervention while working towards my Masters in Special Education."

**Tegan Krouse**

"As a general education teacher, I was looking for classes to increase my knowledge in working with students with learning exceptionalities. I enjoyed the professors and classes at Purdue Fort Wayne so much that I decided to work towards my special education license. I truly appreciate the small class size which lends itself to discussion-based classes. The professors are knowledgeable, insightful and approachable. The special education classes equipped me to meet the needs of the various learners I see every day."

**Dana Muehl**

## **MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SPECIAL EDUCATION (30 CREDIT HOURS)**

The Master of Science in Education with a major in Special Education will lead to a Mild Intervention Teaching Certification. This program includes graduate coursework in special education and research methods. You are eligible to complete the coursework if you hold a current general education teaching license. You may choose a thesis or special project to complete your master's degree. Example Plan of Study below.

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### **FIRST FALL SEMESTER**

EDU 52502 Characteristics, Law, and Assistive Technology in Special Education (Hybrid)  
EDU 55300 Classroom Management and Behavior Support (Hybrid)

### **FIRST SPRING SEMESTER**

EDU 50301 Introduction to Research (Online)  
EDU 53501 Assessment and Remediation of the Mildly Handicapped I (Hybrid)  
(Co-requisite) EDU 50100 Field Experience/Service Learning for Diversity

### **SUMMER SEMESTER**

EDU 50501 Introduction to Special Education for Graduate Students (Online)  
EDU 56500 Collaboration and Service Delivery (Hybrid)

### **FINAL FALL SEMESTER**

EDU 53600 Assessment and Remediation of the Mildly Handicapped II (Hybrid)  
(Co-requisite) EDU 50100 Field Experience/Service Learning for Diversity  
EDU 50003 Thesis and Special Projects (Hybrid)

### **FINAL SPRING SEMESTER**

EDU 59501 Practicum (On-site)  
EDU 59901 Thesis and Special Projects II (Hybrid)



# **COURSES**

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# APPLICATION DEADLINES



U.S. Citizen: rolling admission

## STEPS TO APPLY

- 1. Application:** To begin your application create an account through the portal at [pfw.edu/grad-apply](http://pfw.edu/grad-apply). Applicants can make and save changes before submitting by logging in with the username and password used to create the account.
- 2. Application Fee:** The Graduate School application fee is \$60 (U.S. dollars) for domestic applicants and \$75 (U.S. dollars) for international applicants. Your application will not be processed until your nonrefundable application fee has been paid.
- 3. Transcripts:** Through the application portal, you must upload transcript(s) and/or academic document(s) for every institution of higher education you attended regardless of whether or not a degree was received. If a degree was received then it must be printed on the transcripts. If no degree conferral is printed on the transcripts then a copy of the original diploma (degree certificate) is needed. If the documents are not in English, you must upload an English translation certified by the college or university that issued it. All candidates must hold a four-year undergraduate degree or equivalent in any discipline from a recognized institution.
- 4. Professional Goals Statement (Essay):** A goal statement summarizing professional and personal goals. It should be approximately two pages in length and include explicit statements regarding:
  - Professional goals including preferred professional setting(s), examples of typical activities, and any specialized interests
  - Pertinent past experiences that contribute to the development of the professional goals cited
  - Any unique skills and/or characteristics that will aid in the applicant's pursuit of the goals cited
- 5. Recommendations:** Submit names of two individuals who are qualified to evaluate your academic or on-the-job performance who can attest to your ability to pursue a graduate degree. In the online application to the Purdue Graduate School, once you click "Send to Recommender," each individual will receive an email with instructions on submitting their recommendation online. Once submitted, the graduate program to which you applied will have access to view your recommendation.

## OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS

You must provide official transcripts and/or academic records at the request of the graduate program or if you are admitted and choose to enroll. An official transcript bears the original signature of the registrar and/or the original seal of the issuing institution. An unofficial transcript printed from your current/previous institution(s) student system is not an acceptable document. Official documents should be submitted to:

Purdue University Fort Wayne  
Office of Graduate Studies  
2101 E Coliseum Blvd., KT 140  
Fort Wayne, IN 46805

Domestic transcripts must be mailed directly from a Registrar's office to the Office of Graduate Admissions. (You can choose to send the transcripts yourself, but the transcripts must be in an envelope sealed by the Registrar).

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**260-481-6111**  
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