

# SPECIAL EDUCATION

## (LEARNING BEHAVIOR SPECIALIST I) FOR LICENSED TEACHERS

MEd DEGREE • LBSI ENDORSEMENT ONLY

The Learning Behavior Specialist I MEd program prepares teachers to provide educational services for children and adolescents with disabilities. The program is non-categorical in philosophy and content to the maximum extent allowed by the new Illinois state guidelines for special education teacher certification. The program curriculum covers the knowledge and skills of the Illinois State Board of Education Content Standards for Special Educators—Learning Behavior Specialist I (LSBI).

### MEd DEGREE

The Learning Behavior Specialist I MEd program will equip you with the knowledge and skills necessary to meet the multiple and unique needs of students with learning, behavioral/emotional, mental, and/or physical disabilities at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. You will be trained through a non-categorical model, preparing you to work with students' complex and multiple needs. The program offers a special emphasis on integrating research and practice.

### LEARNING BEHAVIOR SPECIALIST I (LBSI) ENDORSEMENT ONLY

The LSBI Endorsement program is for teachers who currently hold a bachelor's degree and a teaching license, and would like to become highly qualified to teach students with disabilities. To complete the LBSI endorsement program, you will enroll in eight courses.

#### PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Classes are in a hybrid format of online and on-campus, with 40% of all classes online.

- The degree offers full-time enrollment.  
*Average time to completion (full time): 1 year (including summers)*
- The degree offers part-time enrollment.  
*Average time to completion (part time): 2–5 years*

The program has suspended admission for the 2019-2020 academic year.

#### INTERNSHIPS/RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

For the MEd, a practicum/internship will take place during the summer, if certain criteria are met. For the MEd, you will also complete a comprehensive portfolio at the end of the program.

#### EXPECTATIONS AFTER GRADUATION

Graduates of the MEd program will be eligible for an Illinois State Board of Education LSBI PreK–21 endorsement. Upon completing the LBSI Endorsement-only program, you will be eligible for a LBSI Endorsement on your current Professional Educator License. Either program will position you to become a stronger advocate for students with disabilities and those at risk of developing them.

Candidates in all programs leading to Illinois licensure are required to pass an Illinois Test of Basic Skills, the appropriate licensure exam, and a State Criminal Background Check.

Career services are available at [LUC.edu/career](http://LUC.edu/career).

## PROGRAM DISTINCTIONS

The program offers online learning with the support of face-to-face instruction. Convenient class start times allow full-time teachers to attend courses.

Loyola University Chicago's School of Education serves more than 1,000 graduate students enrolled in master's, educational specialist, licensure, and doctoral programs. The school prepares professionals in the service of social justice and promotes the Jesuit ideals of quality, intellectual rigor, and service to others.

The MEd program provides three unique foci in graduate coursework:

1. understanding how to support student behavior
2. improving academic functioning
3. supporting student and family quality of life

The Learning Behavior Specialist I Endorsement is in high demand in Illinois.

The program is accredited by the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) and by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).

The National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), now the Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), accredits the School of Education.

## PREREQUISITES

To be considered for the program, you will need a current Illinois teaching license with an initial teacher endorsement.

## FINANCIAL AID

Begin the financial aid process by completing your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [fafsa.ed.gov](https://fafsa.ed.gov).

Learn more about the financial aid process at [LUC.edu/education/financialaid](https://LUC.edu/education/financialaid).

## LEARN MORE

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

[gpem.LUC.edu/apply](https://gpem.LUC.edu/apply)

CONTACT INFORMATION

*For further information about the academic program, or to arrange a visit, please contact:*

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ONLINE: [LUC.edu/education](https://LUC.edu/education)

*Send all supporting documents to:*

Graduate and Professional  
Enrollment Management  
Loyola University Chicago  
820 N. Michigan Avenue  
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