

PROPOSAL: Rename the Master of Arts in Special Education Clinical Teacher to Master of Arts in Special Education: Autism Spectrum Disorder K-12

Background

The Graduate Studies Council has approved the renaming Master of Arts in Special Education Clinical Teacher to Master of Arts in Special Education: Autism Spectrum Disorder K-12 offered by the Department of Special Education and Literacy Studies in the College of Education and Human Development.

In May 2025, the Michigan Department of Education announced a new certification option for K-12 special education teachers called the "Special Education Teacher". This new certification option allows candidates to teach in multiple disability areas, including emotional impairments (EI) and learning disabilities (LD). In response to this announcement, the K-12 special education faculty are proposing a new graduate program for Fall 2026 titled "Special Education K-12", which will certify candidates to teach both EI and LD. Therefore, the LD and EI options in the current Clinical Teacher MA are redundant and need to be removed. The new "Special Education Teacher" certification does not, however, allow for candidates to teach students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Therefore, the ASD option for the current Clinical Teacher MA needs to remain. We want to change the name of the Clinical Teacher MA to clearly reflect K-12 special education certification in autism spectrum disorder. This will clarify communication with potential and current students, district partners, as well as various university stakeholders.

Recommended Action

Rename the Master of Arts in Special Education Clinical Teacher to Master of Arts in Special Education: Autism Spectrum Disorder K-12.