# M.Ed. Special Education ‐ Concentration in Deafblindness

# and Graduate Certificate in Deafblindess

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**Program Description:**

The purpose of the DeafBlind programs is to prepare teachers and equip them with the needed communication skills, teaching strategies, evaluation methods, and current issues and trends for serving their students who are DeafBlind.

## Degree areas:

***Master of Education in Special Education -- Teacher of Students with Deafblindness program***. This 36-credit hour program, plus a master’s comprehensive project, prepares students to serve as teachers of students who are DeafBlind in educational settings at the elementary and secondary levels.

***Non-Degree Graduate Certificate in Teacher of Students with Deafblindness Program***. This 15-hour hybrid program allows persons with a bachelor’s degree to complete academic coursework and earn a university graduate certificate as a teacher of the DeafBlind in Texas. \* \*Students must apply and be admitted to the program prior to seeking the certificate.

## Standards:

The DeafBlind Programs are guided by the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Initial and Advanced Deafblindness Knowledge and Skills.

**DeafBlind Programs’ Course Descriptions:**

* EDSP 5383 - *Anatomy and Functions of the Visual System* (3 credit hours): This course is an introduction to the structure and function of the visual system; conditions that affect visual ability; and the functional, environmental, and psychosocial implications of low vision.
* EDSP 5384 - *Basic Orientation and Mobility Skills* (3 credit hours) :Exploration of space in the home and school environment and the wider community according to individual needs; appreciation and understanding of professional mobility instruction programs.
* EDSP 5388 - *Programs and Services for Individuals with Deafblindness* (3 credit hours):Overviewof psychological, sociological, and educational implications of deafblindness, including appropriate community, educational, and social services**.**
* EDSP 5389 - *Strategies for Students with Multiple Disabilities and Visual Impairments or Deafblindness* (3 credit hours):This course prepares students to *apply the foundational skills and knowledge to work with a student who has multiple disabilities in addition to vision and/or hearing (sensory) impairments*. Therefore, this course prepares professionals to be able to work with students with multiple impairments through the application of appropriate evaluation and instructional strategies.
* EDSP 5394 - *Communication for Individuals with Deafblindness* (3 credit hours):This course covers evaluation and instruction of communication methods for individuals with Deafblindness. The purpose is to provide basic foundational knowledge in evaluation and instruction of various communication methods used with individuals with Deafblindness.
* EDSP 5395 - *Anatomy and Functions of the Auditory System for Students with Deafblindness* (3 credit hours):This course provides recent research practices and problem areas in special education, and aural habilitative procedures: communication, visual communication, and use of residual hearing. The purpose is to provide individuals with the knowledge, skills, and basis for making decisions in respect to teaching students who are DeafBlind.
* EDSP5093**:** *Internship* (6 credit hours)

**Program of Studies for Graduate Certificate in Deafblindness**

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| **Course Type in Program** | **Course Prefix & Number** | **Course Title** |
| **Specialization Courses**  24 semester hours | EDSP 5383 | Anatomy and Functions of the Visual System (3 hrs.) |
| EDSP 5388 | Programs and Services for Individuals with Deafblindness (3 hrs.) |
| EDSP 5389 | Strategies for Students with Multiple Disabilities and Visual Impairments or Deafblindness (3 hrs.) |
| EDSP 5394 | Communication for Individuals with Deafblindness (3 hrs.) |
| EDSP 5395 | Anatomy and Functions of the Auditory System for Students with Deafblindness (3 hrs.) |
| Total of 15 semester hours\*\* | This degree plan leads to a Graduate Certificate in Deafblindness; it does not lead to a specific TEA certification. | |

\*\* Students can transfer in up to 3 credit hours at the graduate level for the graduate certificate program.

**Program of Studies for Deafblindness Master’s Degree**

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| **Course Type in Program** | **Course Prefix & Number** | **Course Title** |
| **Core Courses**  3 semester hours | EPSY 5379 | Introduction to Educational Research |
| **EPSY Elective Core**  Pick one (1) of the following:  3 semester hours | EPSY 5310 | Philosophy of Education |
| EPSY 5314 | History of Education |
| EPSY 5323 | Cultural Foundations of Education |
| EPSY 5331 | Human Development in Education |
| EPSY 5332 | Educational Psychology (3 hrs.) |
| **Special Education Core**  3 semester hours | EDSP 5307 | Collaborative Problem Solving in Special Education (3 hrs.) |
| **Specialization Courses**  24 semester hours | EDSP 5388 | Programs and Services for Individuals with Deafblindness (3 hrs.) |
| EDSP 5383 | Anatomy and Functions of the Visual System (3 hrs.) |
| EDSP 5384 | Basic Orientation and Mobility Skills (3 hrs.) |
| EDSP 5389 | Strategies for Students with Multiple Disabilities and Visual Impairments or Deafblindness (3 hrs.) |
| EDSP 5394 | Communication for Individuals with Deafblindness (3 hrs.) |
| EDSP 5395 | Anatomy and Functions of the Auditory System for Students with Deafblindness (3 hrs.) |
| EDSP 5093 | Internship in Special Education (6 hrs.) |
| **Graduate Elective**  3 semester hours | Advisor Approved Course  EDSP 5303 ABA I: Applied Behavior Analysis in Special Education  or  EDSP 5345 ABA II: Data Collection Methods and Single-Subject Designs | |
| Total of 36 semester hours\*\* | This degree plan leads to an M.Ed. in Special Education with a concentration in Deafblindness and includes a TTU Graduate Certificate in Deafblindness; it does not lead to a specific TEA certification. | |

\*\* Adjustments to course requirements can be made with advisor approval on an individual basis.

Students can transfer in up to 6 credit hours at the graduate level for the master’s program.

**Important:** You must file an Intent to Graduate with the Graduate School and an application to take the Master’s Comprehensive Exam with the College of Education early in your last semester. You will receive an email notice from the COE Graduate School Coordinator containing instructions pertaining to graduation requirements prior to your final semester.

## Admission Requirements:

Students applying to any Special Education Graduate programs must complete their application online through the Graduate School’s admission site: <https://www.depts.ttu.edu/gradschool/admissions/howtoapply.php>

There is a $75 application fee to apply to the University, and it can be completed online. (Additional applications to add programs are $25 each). You do not need GRE scores to apply for a DeafBlind graduate certificate program or for a master’s degree in special education with a concentration in Deafblindness. You will need to have all your other official college transcripts sent to the Graduate School Admissions office. ([transcripts.gradschool@ttu.edu](mailto:transcripts.gradschool@ttu.edu)**).**

**Contact Dr. L.J. Gould (lj.gould@ttu.edu or 806-834-4224) for admissions information regarding Special Education programs.**

## Registration & Academic Standards

## Academic Quality:

Students must maintain a level of academic integrity and progress in line with Texas Tech and the College of Education’s standards of excellence. Students whose GPA is below 2.5 for 3 consecutive semesters will be placed under Academic probation; after 4 semesters the student will be placed under a suspension and dropped from the program. A new, complete application to the University with essay and references must be submitted for readmission after the suspension period is over. Readmission to the program is conditional and up to the discretion of the program’s respective coordinator.

## Academic Integrity:

Students who break academic integrity by cheating or plagiarism are liable to be dropped or suspended from the program at the discretion of the instructor of record and respective program coordinator. Repeat offenses are eligible for permanent suspension from the program with no readmission allowed. Please the review the TTU handbook on Academic Integrity for standards and definitions: <https://www.depts.ttu.edu/tlpdc/Resources/NewFacultyResources/Student_Handbook_Academic_Integrity_Procedures.pdf>

**Specialization:**

[TTU Master’s Degree in Special Education with a concentration in Deafblindness](https://www.depts.ttu.edu/education/graduate/special-education/special_education_dual_sensory_impairments.php)

**Additional Information:**

[CEC Code of Ethics](https://exceptionalchildren.org/sites/default/files/2020-07/Code%20of%20Ethics.pdf)

[Graduate School Website](https://www.depts.ttu.edu/gradschool/)

[College of Education Website](https://www.depts.ttu.edu/education/)

[Sowell Center Website](https://www.depts.ttu.edu/education/outreach-and-research/sowell/)

# Graduate Faculty

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| Phoebe Aoko Okungu, Ph.D.  [phoebe.okungu@ttu.edu](mailto:phoebe.okungu@ttu.edu)  (806) 834-0286 | Teacher of Students with Deafblindness Program Coordinator, Associate Professor |
| Rona Pogrund, Ph.D.  [rona.pogrund@ttu.edu](mailto:rona.pogrund@ttu.edu)  806-834-3865 | Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments Program Coordinator, Professor |
| Nora Griffin-Shirley, Ph.D.  [n.griffin-shirley@ttu.edu](mailto:n.griffin-shirley@ttu.edu)  806-834-0225 | Orientation and Mobility Program Coordinator, Professor |
| Opal Effie Laman, Ed.D [e.laman@ttu.edu](mailto:n.griffin-shirley@ttu.edu)  505-515-7985 | Deaf/Hard of Hearing Program Internship Supervisor |