

UAF School of Education

Master of Special Education Program & K-12 Post-Baccalaureate Special Education Certification Program



Statement of Academic Goals

The goals statement should indicate why the candidate is seeking to enter the Special Education program – the applicant should analyze his or her basic motivations, characteristics, and qualifications and how this may impact their success in the program. The paper should be 4-5 pages in length (double-spaced, Times New Roman font, 1 inch margins) and should include 5 basic components:

- a) Motivations: Explain your reasons for wanting to enter the Special Education program. Consider your motivations and describe how they will assist you in realizing your degree completion.
- b) Personal Characteristics: Discuss your personal characteristics and how they may help you in becoming effective in your future career goals.
- c) Experience: Discuss your experiences related to this field including both paid and volunteer work. Describe how this relates to your interest in pursuing this degree.
- d) Education: Describe your educational background and how it may assist you in your educational endeavors throughout the Special Education Certification and/or M. Ed. program.
- e) Intentions: Discuss how you intend to use your degree upon completion of the program.

Letters of Recommendation

--Good people to ask: work supervisors, work colleagues, former professors, people you know from volunteer or community work. (Note: letters from family members, even if there is a professional connection, will not be accepted).

--Letters may be addressed to "The Special Education Admissions Committee."

--Letters must be printed, on letterhead if appropriate, and signed by the writer. Signed letters may be scanned and emailed to the admissions@uaf.edu.

--The content of the letters may vary depending on the source:

*Work: Discuss your knowledge of the field, tasks you are able to perform, and your ethical and professional behaviors.

* Academic: Discuss your ability to undertake graduate study and research.

*Character: Discuss your strengths and weaknesses in regard to your dispositions for the field of special education.