

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."

-- Applicants will enter the email addresses of their references into the UAF Admission Portal.

References will be sent an email by UAF requesting the letter. Please notify your references that an email will be coming from UAF.

--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.