Texas Educators for Students with Autism (TESA)

What is this program?

Texas Educators for Students with Autism (TESA) is a federally funded program designed to recruit qualified graduate students and prepare them to provide public school services to children and youth with autism. The preparation includes knowledge and skills related to the use of evidence-based practices primarily derived from applied behavior analysis (ABA). It is our belief that training more school personnel, particularly teachers, to utilize these strategies will greatly benefit Texas students with autism and their families.

The TESA program provides scholarship assistance to qualifying participants for tuition, fees, and books until completion of teacher certification and/or a master’s degree. The scholarship is provided through Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) funding. Individuals who receive scholarship assistance with IDEA funds are required to pay back the federal government through service. For each academic year that a participant receives federal assistance, the participant must maintain full-time employment in an approved position for the equivalent of two years or repay the federal government for the portion of assistance received that has not been repaid through service. Approved positions must meet the following criteria: At least 51 percent of the infants, toddlers, and children to whom the individual provides services are receiving special education; or the individual spends at least 51 percent of his or her time providing special education; and if serving children, the children served must fall under the definition of eligible children as described in section 602(3) of IDEA. Scholarship recipients are reimbursed at the successful completion of each semester for tuition, fees, and books.

Who is eligible for this funding?

This funding is available for individuals seeking special education (SPED) teaching certification (initial or supplemental) or who are already certified SPED teachers or credentialed related service personnel, and are seeking a master’s degree in special education with a concentration in autism and applied behavior analysis.

What are the benefits of this program?

The program culminates in a master’s degree in special education with a concentration in autism and ABA, a Texas teacher certificate in special education (if necessary), and/or a Texas State Certificate in Autism. Furthermore, The Behavior Analyst Certification Board, Inc. has approved our course sequence as meeting the requirements for eligibility to take the Board Certified Behavior Analyst Examination. Students would need to meet additional requirements to qualify for this examination. BCBA supervision hours are available in the Texas State CARES clinic.

Application deadline

June 15th (TESA admission occurs only in fall semesters.)

Admission policy

In addition to the general requirements for admission to the Texas State Graduate College, the Texas State Special Education Program requires students who seek a master’s degree in special education with a concentration in autism and applied behavior analysis to have a minimum GPA of 2.75 on the last 60 hours of undergraduate course work leading to a bachelor’s degree and a preferred GRE score of 900 (verbal and quantitative combined). TESA participants must be accepted to the autism/ABA graduate program based on application and interview information. In addition to submitting an application to the Graduate College, the autism/ABA application, which includes the TESA application, is due no later than June 15 for fall semester admission (Note: only fall admissions are available).

For more information and an application visit

www.education.txstate.edu/ci/sped

Contact

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A member of the Texas State University System
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TESA participants must be accepted to the autism/ABA graduate program based on application and interview information. Only fall admissions are available – application deadline June 15.

Check each of the following that you are applying for through the Graduate College at Texas State:

___ I will be seeking a Master's degree in Special Education
___ I will be seeking Texas Teacher certification in Special Education
___ I will be seeking the Texas State University certificate in Autism

How did you find out about TESA?

Citizen/Character Data
Are you a citizen of the United States? ____yes ____no
Have you ever been convicted of a felony? ____yes ____no
Have you ever been suspended, dismissed or forcibly withdrawn from an institution for non-academic reasons? ____yes ____no

_____ Check here if you have read the attached TESA information
_____ Check here if you are interested in applying for TESA grant funds
_____ Please initial that you have read the above obligation information

I certify that the above information submitted in support of my application to the SPED Graduate autism/ABA program is correct and that I have not omitted any relevant information. I acknowledge that deliberate omissions or falsifications may influence my admission, retention, or exit status.

Signature: ______________________________ Date: ______________________________

Printed Name: ______________________________ Email: ______________________________ Phone: ______________________________

To apply for TESA funding, send this application to:
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