

Preparing Special Education Teachers as Consultants, Collaborators and Researchers
on the Texas-Mexico Border

Poster Session
Round Table Discussion

Master's Degree Program

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The Master's Degree Program in Special Education for the Linguistically and Culturally Diverse Exceptional Learner provides opportunities for graduate students to develop professional competencies through applied practice in educational settings and research opportunities involving learners and families from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds from predominantly Hispanic Spanish speaking backgrounds.

This university is 15 miles from the Rio Grande River, the international border between Mexico and the United States with an enrollment of over 13,700 with over 86% being Mexican American, reflecting the demographic characteristics of the immediate region, the Rio Grande Valley. The population the university serves is a seven county area with 38 school districts and is considered one of the fastest growing population areas in the United States. A limiting factor for the attainment of advanced degrees has been the inaccessibility of post graduate education due to the geographic isolation.

The focus of the degree program is on preparing students academically to do classroom based research; develop consultation and collaboration skills; instructional adaptations; behavioral and social interventions; and literacy for bilingual students with mild disabilities as well as students with severe disabilities. This degree is currently funded by OSEP High Incidence Grant for student scholarships in high incidence disabilities.

The presentation will include degree program curriculum as well as graduate student's classroom based applied research projects.