

MASTER OF ARTS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION, INITIAL CERTIFICATION



Successful completion of this program leads to certification in LBS I for the State of Illinois with the passage of the appropriate state required tests.

TARGET AUDIENCE:

The Program

Designed to meet the needs of three groups of educators: individuals who hold undergraduate degrees in areas other than education who desire to become special educators; currently certified elementary (Type 03), early childhood (Type 04), and secondary (Type 09) teachers who desire certification in special education; and educators and other related professionals seeking to gain professional development through the earning of a graduate degree.

The program is highly structured and has built into it benchmarks, assessment of dispositions, portfolio development, and performance-based assessments. It also has three carefully designed clinical experiences that meet the needs of the three groups listed above. For those seeking initial entitlement, the last experience must be a full-time unpaid student teaching experience for an entire semester. Those in the latter groups may be able to fulfill this requirement on their current job sites.

The Cohort Concept

The Program is offered as a 20 to 25 student cohort that begins in the spring semester each year. The courses will be offered in a pre-determined sequence that will require each candidate to take them when offered. Courses offered in a pre-determined sequence will allow candidates to finish the entire program in approximately 2.5 years (including summer semesters).

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) Graduate students are admitted for Fall Semester.
- 2) Undergraduate degree.

- 3) Minimum undergraduate GPA of 2.75 (4-point scale). Previous graduate credit is also taken into appropriate consideration.
- 4) Passing Score on The Illinois Test of Basic Skills.
- 5) Spontaneous writing sample and/or interview at the discretion of the Department.

COST:

For updated information on tuition and fees, see http://www.neiu.edu/Prospective%20Students/Tuition_Fees/Tuition_%26_Fees.html

ACADEMIC CALENDAR:

Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters.

DELIVERY MODE:

Face-to-face, on-line and a combination of both.

LOCATION(S) OF COURSES:

University Center facility in Grayslake.

TEXTBOOK PURCHASE:

Textbooks will be purchased through the instructors.

TRANSFER HOURS POLICY:

Nine hours may be transferred from another institution. These hours must meet the Graduate College requirements and approved by the Department of Special Education.

TOTAL HOURS NEEDED:

This is a 45 hour program.

CERTIFICATES OFFERED:

Learning Behavior Specialist I

FINANCIAL AID INFO:

Information is available through the Department of Special Education Web Page.

CONTACT PERSON(S):

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REQUIRED COURSES:

BLOCK I

- SPED 500 Research I: Critical Writing & Research in Special Education (3)
SPED 501 Development & Characteristics of Children & Youth with Disabilities (3)
SPED 502 Development of Cognition, Learning & Language (3)
SPED 503 Historical, Philosophical & Legal Foundations of Special Education (3)

BLOCK II

- SPED 504 Assessment I: Principles of Educational Assessment in Special Education (3)
SPED 509 Methods I: Specialized Curriculum & Methods in Special Education (3)
READ 402 Issues in Reading Instruction (3)
SPED 507 Internship I: Assessing & Teaching Individuals with Mild to Moderate Disabilities (1)
SPED 508 Methods II: General Curriculum & Methods in Special Education (3)

BLOCK III

- SPED 505 Consultation & Collaboration: Special & Regular Education (3)
SPED 506 Technology in Special Education (3)
SPED 511 Alternative Programming & Curriculum in Special Education (3)
SPED 512 Internship II: Assessing and Teaching Individuals with Moderate to Severe Disabilities (2)

BLOCK IV

- SPED 510 Methods III: Strategies of Behavior Management (3)
SPED 513 Assessment II: Applied Diagnostic Testing (3)
SPED 514 Internship III: Applied Teaching in Special Education (3)

Total Credit Hours: 45