

SECONDARY EDUCATION AND SPECIAL EDUCATION (PREK-12) CERTIFICATION

Program Description

In our Dual Certification Program in Special Education and Secondary Education, you'll embark on a comprehensive journey to become a highly skilled educator capable of supporting students across diverse learning needs and grade levels.

Secondary Education Focus: Simultaneously, in the Secondary Education Teacher Certification component, you'll immerse yourself in the essentials of teaching in secondary school settings. Rigorous coursework and practical training will hone your expertise in subject matter content, pedagogical strategies, classroom management, and tailored assessment techniques for adolescent learners. Our program is dedicated to fostering inclusive classrooms, nurturing critical thinking skills, and preparing you to effectively engage with diverse student populations. Upon completion, you'll emerge as a confident and competent educator, ready to inspire and empower the next generation of learners.

Special Education Focus: In the PreK-12 Special Education portion of the program, you'll delve into a wide array of topics aimed at understanding and supporting students with disabilities. From learning about various disabilities to crafting tailored interventions and instructional strategies, you'll gain the tools needed to meet each student's unique needs. Through a mix of coursework and hands-on experiences, you'll master assessment techniques, curriculum adaptations, behavior management, and collaborative skills with families and professionals. Our emphasis on inclusive environments, equity promotion, and advocacy for students' rights ensures you're equipped to empower students to excel academically, socially, and emotionally.

This dual certification program provides a unique opportunity to develop a broad skill set that spans from special education to secondary education, preparing you to make a meaningful difference in the lives of all students you encounter.

Required for Program Completion

45 Credits

Certification Areas

Certification is offered in Biology, Chemistry, Communications, Social Studies, Earth and Space Science, English, French, General Science, German, Italian, Latin, Mathematics, Physics, and Spanish.

Subject Area Courses

Determined on an individual basis

Core Courses

- EDC 503 Cognitive, Social, and Emotional Development
- EDC 510 Human Diversity
- EDC 604 Foundations of Schooling
- EDC 613 The Role of the Developmentally Oriented Teacher

Certification Courses

- BLS 601 Techniques of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages

- EDC 602 Educational Technology
- EDC 617 Reading in the Content Area
- EDC 619 Introduction to Assessment and Instruction of Reading and Writing Difficulties
- EDC 644 Assessing the Needs of All Learners
- EDC 667 Implementing the IEP in the Inclusive Classroom

Secondary Education Practicum

- EDC 647 Developing and Adjusting Instruction for Secondary Learners
- EDC 648 Secondary Education Summer Practicum
- EDC 661 Teaching All Students in Inclusive and Special Education Settings.

Professional Semester

- EDC 668 Secondary Education Supervised Teaching

OR

- EDC 689 Secondary Education Student Teaching (candidates with no teaching experience)
- EDC 680 Secondary Education Special Methods of Teaching

Course	Title	Credits
First Year		
EDC 503	Cognitive, Social, and Emotional Development	3
EDC 510	Human Exceptionalities	3
BLS 601	Techniques of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages	3
EDC 602	The Teacher and Technology	3
EDC 617	Reading in the Content Areas for Secondary Educators	3
EDC 647	Developing and Adjusting Instruction for Secondary Learners	3
EDC 648	Secondary Education Summer Practicum	3
EDC 661	Teaching All Students in Inclusive and Special Education Settings	3
Credits		24
Second Year		
EDC 604	Foundations of Schooling	3
EDC 613	The Role of the Developmentally Oriented Teacher	3
EDC 619	Literacy Difficulties: Diagnosis and Instruction for Reading Specialists and Classroom Teachers	3
EDC 644	Assessing the Abilities of all Learners	3
EDC 667	Implementing the IEP in the Inclusive Classroom	3
Credits		15
Third Year		
EDC 680 or EDC 668	Secondary Education Special Methods of Teaching or Secondary Education Supervised Teaching (S)	3
EDC 689	Secondary Education Student Teaching	3
Credits		6
Total Credits		45

Course Sequence

Eight-Week Sessions

EDC 503 Cognitive, Social, and Emotional Development

This course provides an overview of the physical, cognitive, psychosocial, emotional, and moral development for humans across the lifespan. Participants will explore theories of learning and development as they pertain to the individual in the home, in schools, the community, at work, individually, with families and with peers. Attention will be paid to both normative and nonnormative developmental trends.

EDC 510 Human Exceptionalities

This course introduces human exceptionalities and surveys the psychological, medical, legal, and social forces influencing the provision of services for exceptional people. Clarifies perceptions of exceptionalities, defines and describes key terms and concepts, and identifies major trends that affect the scope and nature of service to exceptional people.

EDC 604 Foundations of Schooling

This course examines schooling and its problems in historic, social, economic, legal, organizational, philosophical and global contexts. The intents and effects of educational institutions including, but not limited to schooling, both past and present are discussed. Schooling-related controversies are dissected and the organizational complexities of schools structures are analyzed. Numerous levels of assessment and accountability are researched. Theories and practices of curriculum development are studied and applied to the construction of a values based curriculum. The course provides resources for the development of educational policy- making perspective skills. It stresses the knowledge, skills and attitudes that make teachers effective curriculum leaders and school problem solvers. Prerequisite(s): EDC 503, EDC 510, EDC 613

EDC 613 The Role of the Developmentally Oriented Teacher

This course enables students to more expertly apply child and adolescent developmental concepts to the practice of teaching. Explores strategic instructional planning, teaching styles, presentation skills, cooperative learning, and classroom management systems. Emphasizes the role of the teacher as an educational leader and decision-maker. Uses video-assisted micro-teaches both in the laboratory and the classroom. Prerequisite(s): EDC 503

EDC 602 The Teacher and Technology

This course helps teachers incorporate modern technologies of instruction into their classroom practices. Includes visual literacy and design principles, videography, the Internet, videodisc technology, cable in classroom, trends in educational computing, and multimedia. Emphasizes the impact of those technologies on human growth and development. Prerequisite(s): EDC 503

EDC 617 Reading in the Content Areas for Secondary Educators

This course provides students with the opportunity to understand reading as a strategic interactive process that affects the learner's efforts in all academic areas. Students will explore currently held views of the reading process, instruction techniques, and assessment concerns related to secondary education. Class sessions employ a variety of formats, including lecture, demonstration, discussion, and hands-on experiences. Course projects provide practical application of the theoretical, instructional, and diagnostic issues presented. Required of all certification candidates. Prerequisite(s): EDC 503

EDC 619 Literacy Difficulties: Diagnosis and Instruction for Reading Specialists and Classroom Teachers

The major goal of this course is to help future and practicing teachers understand how reading and writing ability develop, why some students have difficulty learning to read/or write, how to diagnose and address reading and writing problems, why a variety of assessment and teaching techniques must be used to identify students' strengths and needs, and how to use the results to design appropriate instruction. The premise for this goal is that both understanding why and knowing how are necessary for a teacher to make informed decisions that impact reading and writing instruction. Prerequisite(s): EDC 617 or EDC 618; or enrolled in Special Education certification program

EDC 644 Assessing the Abilities of all Learners

This course provides an overview of norm-referenced, criterion-referenced, curriculum-based, and authentic assessments used in the evaluation of students with and without disabilities. Classroom-based practices using differentiated assessments are also emphasized in this course. Students will be engaged in evaluating a focus child and writing a report containing Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) goals to meet the needs of the student. Prerequisite(s): EDC 510 or permission

EDC 647 Developing and Adjusting Instruction for Secondary Learners

This course applies a developmental perspective to the design and implementation of secondary-level instruction. Prerequisite(s): EDC 503 or permission

EDC 648 Secondary Education Summer Practicum

An intensive summer immersion program for secondary certification candidates. Provides an early full-time classroom teaching experience in a closely supervised and highly supportive clinical setting. Prerequisite(s): EDC 503, EDC 647 or permission

EDC 668 Secondary Education Supervised Teaching (S)

This course can, with permission of the Candidacy Committee, replace student teaching for candidates with two or more years teaching experience who are also currently employed as teachers. For one semester, the supervised teacher is observed and guided by University faculty while teaching in his or her own current private or public school position. The supervised teacher also conducts an action research project. (Must meet Commonwealth standards as appropriate for area of certification.) Required of all certification candidates who are not required to take student teaching. Prerequisite(s): Must be taken as final course in certification sequence.

EDC 680 Secondary Education Special Methods of Teaching

Weekly seminars held either on campus or at the practicum site designed to help students translate theory into practice by exploring teaching methods in the chosen area of certification. Research project required. Required of all certification candidates. Prerequisite(s): Must be taken as final course in certification sequence.

EDC 689 Secondary Education Student Teaching

Required of all certification candidates not eligible for Supervised Teaching. Prerequisite(s): Must be taken as final course in certification sequence

BLS 601 Techniques of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages

The course analyzes various methodologies used in teaching English as a second language. Emphasis is placed upon methods in teaching, listening, and speaking. Microteaching of difficult points of pronunciation and grammar is also emphasized. Significant attention is given to effective techniques in second-language acquisition.

Course Descriptions

Education