

Special Education Teacher Licensure Program

with a Master's Degree Option

The Springfield College Special Education Program is designed for part time students to pursue special education licensure while working full-time with the convenience of late afternoon and early evening courses. The program prepares teachers in one to two years to teach students with mild to moderate disabilities and leads to the Massachusetts Teacher of Students with Moderate Disabilities license (grades PreK-8 or 5-12).

This program is Massachusetts state approved and offers a unique training experience to include:

- **Flexible Scheduling** – The program is designed to meet the needs of each individual. This allows participants to meet all initial licensure requirements and be employed as a full-time teacher within 12-24 months.
- **A rigorous field-based training experience** – The practical application of course content is stressed throughout the program. Course requirements stress a “real world” orientation in collaboration with area schools.
- **A commitment to recruiting a diverse and academically talented candidate pool** – We seek candidates who possess academic talent and community commitment and who represent a

diverse range of life experience, ethnicity, and economic background.

- **Partnerships with local schools** – Enable our faculty to collaborate with local school teachers to refine course content and enhance fieldwork experiences.

This Graduate Level Initial Licensure Program leads to a candidate's eligibility to teach children with learning disabilities, attention disorders, language and communication disorders, intellectual delays, and behavioral disorders. Course content, and fieldwork, consistent with Massachusetts Department of Education requirements, prepare candidates to work effectively in inclusion settings and special education classrooms. Coursework emphasizes the direct application of skills to the various needs of children with disabilities in classroom settings. Candidates are also prepared to work collaboratively with other school professionals, communicate and work effectively with parents, and work effectively to advocate for the rights of all children to an appropriate education.

Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL)

Students must pass the MTEL Communication & Literacy Skills (C & L) test, the Foundations of Reading test and either the General Curriculum test or a core academic subject test in order to make satisfactory progress in this program and be eligible to do their practicum. All graduate students are advised to take the required MTEL tests as soon as possible. For more information about MTEL, including test registration deadlines, go to: www.mtel.nesinc.com

Course of Study:

The licensure program combines the courses listed below with a practicum in a school setting for a total of 21 credits (PreK-8) or 23 credits (5-12). Students can opt to take additional credits for a Master's Degree.

The following outline reflects the sequence of courses students are advised to follow (this is subject to change). [Students in both programs must take all courses unless noted specifically PK-8 or 5-12.] Some courses may be waived based on the students academic background, experience and licensure status.

PK-8/5-12

Summer

EDUC 640 (5-12 only): Behavior Mgmt. for School Children 3 s.h.

Subtotal: 0/3

Fall

EDUC 651: Legal Issues in Special Education 3 s.h.

EDUC 640 (PK-8 only): Behavior Mgmt. for School Children 3 s.h.

EDUC 628 (5-12 only): Teaching Reading & Writing
in the Content Areas 2 s.h.

Subtotal: 6/5

Spring

CMDS 683: Language Disorders in Children 3 s.h.

EDUC 630: Children with Disabilities 3 s.h.

EDUC 673: Accommodations & Modifications of Curriculum
for Students w/ Special Needs/Pre-practicum 3 s.h.

Subtotal: 9/9

Fall

EDUC 642: Educational Assessment & the IEP Process 3 s.h.

EDUC 662: Teacher of Students with Moderate
Disabilities Practicum 3 s.h.

Subtotal: 6/6

Total: 21/23

Optional Courses for Master's Degree*

RSCH 610: Foundations & Methods of Research 3 s.h.

EDUC 626: Education Research Project 2/3 s.h.

EDUC 619: Contemporary Issues in Education 3 s.h.

OR EDUC 607: Philosophical Foundations in Education

Elective course (PK-8 only) 3 s.h.

Subtotal: 11/9

Total: 32

Prerequisites:

The graduate level initial licensure program has been designed for students who meet the following entrance criteria:

*Other research options available
SPED 7/19/10

1. An undergraduate degree from an accredited college or university;
2. Initial teaching license at the elementary or secondary level or concurrent enrollment in the Elementary or Secondary Initial Licensure Program;
3. Minimum undergraduate grade point average of 2.50;
4. Transcript Review for prerequisite courses;
5. Commitment to the field of education as demonstrated by past experience, essays, interviews and/or reference letters;
6. Other measures of academic and/or professional development (MTEL score, transcript review, professional experience).

SC AmeriCorps Program – Provides eligible students the chance to serve for one year in a Springfield Public School. Benefits of service include a living stipend and a monetary education award from the Corporation for National Service. (This program is contingent upon ongoing grant funding through the Massachusetts Service Alliance.) For more information contact Shannon Langlone: slanglone@spfldcol.edu

Graduate Fellowships – Provides financial assistance and are available within a number of departments for a limited number of qualified graduate students.

Enrollment:

Springfield College Graduate School
Applications can be obtained online at:

<http://www.springfieldcollege.edu/home.nsf/onlineApp/graduate>

For more information about this program please contact by e-mail/phone: Dr. Emmanuel Vincent at evincent@spfldcol.edu or (413) 748-3663 **or** Prof. Jennifer Johnston at jjohnston@spfldcol.edu or (413) 748-3655.

If you have specific questions about getting licensed in Massachusetts as a teacher or administrator, please contact Dr. Linda Davis-Delano, Director of Educator Preparation & Licensure at ldelano@spfldcol.edu or (413) 748-3155.

