



College of Education
1420 Buzzard Hall - (217) 581-2524 - Fax (217) 581-2518
600 Lincoln Avenue – Charleston, IL 61920

EA-COE-21-33
Effective Immediately

To: Council on Graduate Studies
From: Stephen Lucas, COE Associate Dean
Date: November 17, 2021
Re: Executive Action – MSED Special Education Admission Policies/Procedures Change and Curriculum Revisions

On November 8, 2021 the College of Education Curriculum Committee reviewed the Department of Special Education's Executive Action request (attached) on various admissions policies procedures changes and curriculum revisions in the M.S.E.D. in Special Education program.

We request that the Council on Graduate Studies accept this as an Executive Action request from the College of Education; please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen E. Lucas".

selucas@eiu.edu



Department of Special Education

1212 Buzzard Hall

600 Lincoln Avenue

Charleston IL 61920-3099

EA-COE-21-33
Effective Immediately

To: Dean Laretta Henderson, College of Education and Dean Ryan Hendrickson, Dean of Graduate School

Re: MSED in Special Education Admission Policies/Procedures Change and Curriculum Revisions

From: Kathryn A. Havercroft, Chair

Date: September 27, 2021

Several changes are needed in the admission policies and procedures to align with CAEP accreditation requirements and to clearly outline what is required for admission decisions. Additionally, curriculum changes from both SPE coursework and from EDF electives necessitate catalog changes to clearly identify course requirements and options.

1. Increase required minimum GPA from 2.75 for full admittance to 2.75 for Provisional Admittance and 3.00 for Full Admission/candidacy. Rationale: CAEP requires a minimum GPA of 3.0 for admission to advanced programs. Therefore, we would like our MSED candidates entering under the Grad School 2.75 to be provided provisional admittance to the MSED program. Once they have achieved a 3.3 GPA they will be fully admitted to the program and thus receive candidacy.
2. To complete the application process, those applying must provide contact information for two references (rather than uploading two recommendation letters as is now specified in catalog language). This will allow references to be contacted which can provide context and any additional information needed that might not be shared in a letter. Applicants are also asked to upload verification of special education licensure or an endorsement in special education. This is necessary to ensure applicants have the foundational SPE coursework and knowledge needed to be successful in the program. The MSED in SPE does not provide initial licensure. No dispositional self-ratings are required for admission. Dispositions are rated by faculty at three points in a candidate's program: beginning, middle, end.
3. Replace EDF 5530 Philosophy of Educational Practice, EDF 5535 Philosophy of Education: Clinical, and EDF 5540 History of Educational Practice with EDF 5560 Philosophy and History of Education. Rationale: EDF 5530, 5535 and 5540 were replaced by EDF 5560 in Spring 2018; however, changes were just recently reaffirmed/shared as catalog changes at COTE on 9/14/21

4. The Department determined that a core group of major courses was important for all master's candidates. This change has been approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). Catalog changes now need to be made at the university level to align. The following classes will be required of all MSED in SPE candidates beginning in SP22. Advisement sequences have been aligned to this for some time:
- SPE 5120, Current Issues in Special Education
 - SPE 5670, Assessment in Special Education
 - SPE 5770, Practicum in Special Education
 - SPE 5970, Curriculum and Methods for K-12 Special Education
 - SPE 5900, Research in Special Education

Approved: Special Education Curriculum Committee October 20, 2021
Date

Kathryn Havercroft _____ October 20, 2021
Chair, Department of Special Education Chair Date

Dawn VanGunten / Stephen Lucas November 8, 2021
College Curriculum Date

College on Graduate Studies Date

COTE Date

Current Catalogue Copy

Program Mission: The mission of the online graduate program in Special Education is to prepare graduates for advanced professional practice with individuals with exceptional learning needs. Individuals may pursue additional Special Education endorsements which may include earning a supervisory endorsement, earning an LBS II for “Curriculum Adaptation Specialist” or “Behavior Intervention Specialist,” or preparing to be a “Director” of Special Education.

Admission Requirements: To be eligible for degree candidacy, applicants must meet all of the requirements for admission to the Graduate School (see “[Admission to Graduate Degree and Certificate Programs](#)”). In addition, the student must provide the following documents:

- Official transcripts to the department and university documenting all prior course work and evidence of having earned a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution approved by Eastern Illinois University with a cumulative undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or a 3.0 GPA for the last 60 hours of graded academic coursework as defined by the Graduate School. If these standards are not met, the student may complete nine semester hours of graduate level courses in the department with a grade point average of 3.3 or higher to gain full admission/candidacy and continue in the program.
- The names and contact information for two people who can serve as a reference by addressing the candidate’s potential to engage successfully in graduate school. One reference should be able to address candidate’s experience with children or adults with exceptionalities such as teaching, student teaching volunteer work, private or public agency experience.
- A written statement of future professional goals minimally one paragraph in length.
- A current resume or vita
- Verification of special education licensure or endorsement.

These documents will be considered as the advisor and student formulate a study plan that will include the student’s professional goals, extent of experience with individuals with exceptionalities, and the students’ professional writing competencies.

Degree Audit: The graduate plan of study is the EIU Degree Audit, which is generated automatically in the DegreeWorks system at the time of degree or certificate candidacy. Modifications of the standard EIU Degree Audit are submitted by the graduate coordinator to the certification officer in the Graduate School at the time modifications

are approved. The Degree Audit serves as an unofficial summary of requirements for the program. Degree and certificate candidates are advised to review the comprehensive summary of the Degree Audit process specified on the “Requirements for All Degree and Certificate Candidates” section of the Graduate Catalog. Individual programs may require candidates to submit plans of study in addition to the Degree Audit, candidates should consult with the program coordinator.

Degree Requirements

Degree requirements include those outlined for the master of science in education degree by the Graduate School (see “[Requirements for the Master of Science in Education Degree](#)”). The program offers a thesis and non-thesis option.

Curriculum for the Master of Science in Education in Special Education Non-Thesis Option

Total. Credits: 36

Students in the non-thesis option must complete a minimum of 36 semester hours of study for the degree. A minimum of 17 semester hours of all graduate work must be in courses numbered 5000 or higher.

Basic Education Courses. Credits: 9

(selected from the list below)

Special Education and Elective Courses (minimum). Credits: 21 to 22

Core Courses in Special Education:

[SPE 5120 - Current Issues in Special Education.](#) Credits: 3

[SPE 5900 - Research in Special Education.](#) Credits: 3

SPE 5670 - Assessment in Special Education. Credits: 3

SPE 5770 - Practicum in Special Education. Credits: 3

SPE 5970 - Curriculum and Methods for K-12 Special Education. Credits: 3

Curriculum for the Master of Science in Education in Special Education Thesis Option

Total. Credits: 33 to 36

Students in the thesis option must complete a minimum of 30 semester hours of study in addition to thesis hours for the degree. A minimum of 15 semester hours of all graduate work must be in courses numbered 5000 or higher.

Basic Education Courses. Credits: 9

Special Education and Elective Courses (minimum). Credits: 15 to 16

Thesis. Credits: 3 to 6

Core Courses in Special Education:

[SPE 5120 - Current Issues in Special Education.](#) Credits: 3

[SPE 5900 - Research in Special Education.](#) Credits: 3

SPE 5670 - Assessment in Special Education. Credits: 3

SPE 5770 - Practicum in Special Education. Credits: 3

SPE 5970 - Curriculum and Methods for K-12 Special Education. Credits: 3

The 9 semester hours of basic education courses may be selected from the list that follows:

[EDF 5500 - Theory Into Practice: Curriculum Development.](#) Credits: 3

[EDF 5510 - Theory Into Practice: Social Foundations for Educational Practice.](#) Credits: 3

[EDF 5550 - Comparative and International Education.](#) Credits: 3

[EDP 5300 - Psychological Foundations for Educational Practice.](#) Credits: 3 EDF 5560- Philosophy and History of Education. Credits: 3

The Following Regulations Apply to Both Degree Options

A minimum of 21 semester hours must be in courses in the field of special education. Students may select courses or electives from other departments with advisor approval.

A maximum of 10 semester hours of courses numbered 4750 to 4999 may be applied to the degree.

A maximum of six semester hours of appropriate transfer courses (graded courses earning a grade of B or better) from an accredited institution may be applied to a degree.

Graduate Assistantships

Information on graduate assistantships may be obtained by contacting the Coordinator of Graduate Studies or Chair, Department of Special Education, Buzzard Hall 1212, EIU.

New Catalogue Copy

Program Mission: The mission of the online graduate program in Special Education is to prepare graduates for advanced professional practice with individuals with exceptional learning needs. Individuals may pursue additional Special Education endorsements which may include earning a supervisory endorsement, earning an LBS II for “Curriculum Adaptation Specialist” or “Behavior Intervention Specialist,” or preparing to be a “Director” of Special Education.

Admission Requirements: To be eligible for degree candidacy, applicants must meet all of the requirements for admission to the Graduate School (see “[Admission to Graduate Degree and Certificate Programs](#)”). In addition, the student must provide the following documents:

- Official transcripts to the department and university documenting all prior course work and evidence of having earned a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution approved by Eastern Illinois University with a cumulative undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or a 3.0 GPA for the last 60 hours of graded academic coursework as defined by the Graduate School. If these standards are not met, the student may

complete nine semester hours of graduate level courses in the department with a grade point average of 3.3 or higher to gain full admission/candidacy and continue in the program.

- The names and contact information for two people who can serve as a reference by addressing the candidate's potential to engage successfully in graduate school. One reference should be able to address candidate's experience with children or adults with exceptionalities such as teaching, student teaching volunteer work, private or public agency experience.
- A written statement of future professional goals minimally one paragraph in length;
- A current resume or vita;
- Verification of special education licensure or endorsement.

These documents will be considered as the advisor and student formulate a study plan that will include the student's professional goals, extent of experience with individuals with exceptionalities, and the students' professional writing competencies.

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Degree Requirements

Degree requirements include those outlined for the master of science in education degree by the Graduate School (see "[Requirements for the Master of Science in Education Degree](#)"). The program offers a thesis and non-thesis option.

Curriculum for the Master of Science in Education in Special Education Non-Thesis Option

Total. Credits: 36

Students in the non-thesis option must complete a minimum of 36 semester hours of study for the degree. A minimum of 17 semester hours of all graduate work must be in courses numbered 5000 or higher.

Basic Education Courses. Credits: 9

(selected from the list below)

Special Education and Elective Courses (minimum). Credits: 21 to 22

Core Courses in Special Education:

SPE 5120 - Current Issues in Special Education. Credits: 3

SPE 5900 - Research in Special Education. Credits: 3

SPE 5670 - Assessment in Special Education. Credits: 3

SPE 5770 - Practicum in Special Education. Credits: 3

SPE 5970 - Curriculum and Methods for K-12 Special Education. Credits: 3

Curriculum for the Master of Science in Education in Special Education Thesis Option

Total. Credits: 33 to 36

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Basic Education Courses. Credits: 9

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Thesis. Credits: 3 to 6

Core Courses in Special Education:

SPE 5120 - Current Issues in Special Education. Credits: 3

SPE 5900 - Research in Special Education. Credits: 3

SPE 5670 - Assessment in Special Education. Credits: 3

SPE 5770 - Practicum in Special Education. Credits: 3

SPE 5970 - Curriculum and Methods for K-12 Special Education. Credits: 3

The 9 semester hours of basic education courses may be selected from the list that follows:

EDF 5500 - Theory Into Practice: Curriculum Development. Credits: 3

EDF 5510 - Theory Into Practice: Social Foundations for Educational Practice. Credits: 3

EDF 5550 - Comparative and International Education. Credits: 3

EDP 5300 - Psychological Foundations for Educational Practice Credits: 3

EDF 5560- Philosophy and History of Education. Credits:3

The Following Regulations Apply to Both Degree Options

A minimum of 21 semester hours must be in courses in the field of special education. Students may select courses or electives from other departments with advisor approval.

A maximum of 10 semester hours of courses numbered 4750 to 4999 may be applied to the degree.

A maximum of six semester hours of appropriate transfer courses (graded courses earning a grade of B or better) from an accredited institution may be applied to a degree.

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