

California State University Dominguez Hills College of Professional Studies

Special Education Program

Prospective Student Information Session Academic Year 2011 - 2012

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Welcome!

Welcome to the Special Education Program (SPE) in the School of Education (SOE) and College of Professional Studies (CPS) at California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH).

The faculty and staff wish you much success on your journey to becoming a highly qualified credentialed Special Education teacher and/or obtaining your Masters of Arts in Special Education degree.

To assist you on your journey, the SPE has provided the following resources:

- Assigned advisors (program faculty)
- Field experience supervisors, master teachers, support providers
- Professional development
- RICA preparation
- Program handbook (described herein).

SPE Handbook

- ❖ The handbook is designed to provide a comprehensive overview of the SPE program. The following handbook items are aligned with procedures listed in the University Catalog:
 - Admission
 - Program Design
 - Program Progression
 - Candidate Responsibilities
 - Program and University Services

- ❖ The handbook can be accessed from the SPE Blackboard Organization and the SPE Website (see link under Special Education Program description at <http://www.csudh.edu/cps/soe/programsdegrees/teacher-education-special-education.shtml>).

The Program

SPE Credential Programs and Masters Degree

- ❖ The following Preliminary Education Specialist credential programs has two options – Intern and Student Teaching – that prepare candidates to teach children and youth with special needs:
 - Mild-Moderate (M/M)
 - Moderate-Severe (M/S)
 - Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)

- ❖ The Master of Arts Degree in Special Education is an advanced university degree that allows graduates to assume expert teaching, leadership, and advocacy roles in schools and the professional community.

Mild/Moderate Credential

- ❖ This credential authorizes the holder to serve students in Kindergarten, Grades 1-12, and classes organized primarily for adults in services across the continuum of program options available.
- ❖ Holders conduct assessments, deliver instruction, and provide special education related services to individuals with the following primary disabilities:
 - specific learning disabilities
 - intellectual and developmental disabilities
 - other health impairment
 - emotional disturbance
 - autism spectrum disorders within the disability area

Moderate/Severe Credential

- ❖ This credential authorizes the holder to serve students in Kindergarten, Grades 1-12 to age 22, and classes organized primarily for adults in services across the continuum of program options available.
- ❖ Holders conduct assessments, deliver instruction, and provide special education related services to individuals with the following primary disabilities:
 - autism
 - intellectual and developmental disabilities
 - deaf-blindness
 - emotional disturbance
 - multiple disabilities

Early Childhood Special Education Credential

- ❖ This credential authorizes the holder to serve children from birth to Pre-kindergarten in services across the continuum of program options available.
- ❖ Holders conduct assessments, deliver instruction, and provide special education related services to individuals with the following primary disabilities:
 - specific learning disabilities,
 - intellectual and developmental disabilities
 - traumatic brain injury
 - other health impairment
 - autism spectrum disorders
 - deaf-blindness
 - serious emotional disturbance
 - multiple disabilities

Two Credential Program Pathway Options

The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC) Program Standards frame the coursework for the preliminary credentials for Interns and Student Teachers.

- ❖ The Special Education Intern Program (SEIP) is an alternative pathway to the preliminary credential. It allows candidates to teach (as teacher-of-record) while completing the credential requirements. Candidates have school-site mentors to assist their practice.
- ❖ The Special Education Student Teaching Program (ST) is a traditional pathway to the preliminary credential. It allows candidates to learn their craft under the supervision of a master teacher.



Intern Option Process

- ❖ The state offers a two-year Intern Credential for preliminary credential candidates who are currently teaching (teacher-of-record) in a school district, charter school, or Non-Public-School (NPS- not a private school) with a CSUDH MOU (at the bottom of page on this link <http://www.csudh.edu/coe/seip/>).
- ❖ Individuals who wish to apply for the Intern Credential Program are admitted to the University in the Student Teaching program until the application process to the Intern program is complete.
- ❖ Obtain the University Intern Credential Application Checklist from the SEIP Intern Office and return completed Application to the Credential Analyst. The checklist contains detailed information about completing this process.

Masters in Special Education

- ❖ Candidates interested in the M.A. program must apply simultaneously to the credential program.
- ❖ Candidates may only transfer 9 units of approved courses into the M.A. program.
- ❖ The Master of Arts in Special Education consists of 30 units:
 - one 3-unit prerequisite course
 - 21 units of core courses
 - 9 units of elective courses
- ❖ As a program requirement, M.A. candidates must complete successfully a comprehensive examination or a thesis.

Admission Process

❖ Requirements for the Credential and M.A. Degree Programs:

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university; official transcripts (university application) and unofficial transcripts (the program application).
- Meeting required 2.75 grade point average in the last 60 semester units in the B.A.
- Verification of passage score on required examinations (CBEST and/or GVAR, for MA).
- Verification of subject matter competence. Passage of the CSET (Multiple Subjects, English, Math, Science, History, Social Science) or a current California credential in one of these subject areas. Subject matter verification is not required for ECSE.
- Three recent (within two years) professional references from individuals acquainted with the applicant's work with children and youth.
- Verification of the U.S. Constitution requirement by course or test.
- Certificate of Clearance.
- 40 hours of Early Field Experience (guidelines/form in application packet).
- Attendance at a Special Education Prospective Student Information Session.
- Participation in the entrance interview process
- Submission of a teaching philosophy.
- Verification of teaching position in P-12 (Interns).

Course Substitution

- ❖ Course substitutions with verified (transcript) equivalent coursework must be approved by program and credential analyst.
- ❖ MA candidates may only transfer in 9 units of coursework.
- ❖ Credential candidates may not substitute methods fieldwork courses.
- ❖ Candidates holding a General Education Multiple Subject credential are not required to take courses with a TED prefix. Candidates with a Single Subject credential are required to take the TED coursework.

Application Deadlines

ATTENTION

- ❖ All candidates must apply to the university as well as the program for both credential and M.A.
 - University application – www.csumentor.edu
 - Program application - application packets are available at the School of Education Student Services Center in SCC 510
- ❖ Candidates who apply to the Intern Option must complete or have course equivalency for the pre-service courses (SPE 480 and 481).
- ❖ Pay close attention to all application deadlines.