

California State University Dominguez Hills College of Professional Studies

Special Education Program

New Student Orientation Academic Year 2012 - 2113

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Special Education

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 Website (<http://www.csudh.edu/cps/soe/programsdegrees/special-education.shtml>)

Accreditation

- ❖ The University is accredited by WASC, the SOE is accredited by NCATE, and the SPE program is accredited by both NCATE and CCTC.
- ❖ These agencies require that all programs demonstrate accurate assessment of degree and credential candidates. To this end, the SPE program has developed an assessment process for candidate knowledge, skills, and dispositions occurring at four critical transition points: program entrance, admission to field experience, exit from field experience and program exit.
- ❖ Of particular interest to preliminary credential candidates is the assessment of teaching competencies by assigned supervisor during field experience. All related information to this assessment is explained in field experience courses.

The 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 the handbook link under ***Special Education Program*** at <http://www.csudh.edu/cps/soe/programsdegrees/special-education.shtml>).

Program Overview

The SPE Credential Programs consists of the following:

- ❖ The Preliminary Education Specialist credential has two pathway options – Intern and Student Teaching
 - Mild-Moderate (M/M)
 - Moderate-Severe (M/S)
 - Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)
- ❖ The new Clear credential will cover all three options under one credential.
- ❖ 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 Preliminary 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 Preliminary 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

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Early Childhood Special Education Preliminary 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

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The Two Credential Program Pathway Options

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

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ 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.



NOTE: Intern Option Process Only

- ❖ 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:
 - ✓ Make an appointment with Intern Coordinator to obtain the University Intern Credential Application Checklist and submit completed checklist to the Credential Analyst (Building 5).
 - ✓ Obtain Change of Objective form from the TED office and bring the blank form with you at your appointment with the Intern Coordinator.

Professional Clear Credentials

- ❖ The program currently offers a Level II credential that will allow candidates to clear their preliminary credential in either M/M, M/S, or ECSE. This credential is connected to the old Level I credential and has three options (M/M, M/S, ECSE).
- ❖ The new Clear credential is connected to the new Preliminary credential (notification of start date will be posted on Blackboard). This single credential program will allow a candidate with a preliminary M/M, M/S, or ECSE to obtain a single professional clear credential.

The 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.

Important Program Information

- ❖ Assigned Advisor and Advisement Plan
- ❖ Applications for Field Experience and MA Comprehensive Examination
- ❖ Course Substitution & Exception
- ❖ Change of Objective
- ❖ Grade Appeals and Petitions
- ❖ SAP Letter (financial unit cap)

Advisors and Advisement Plan

- ❖ Each candidate is assigned a faculty advisor based on their last name.
- ❖ Candidates must meet with their advisor at the beginning of the program to develop their Advisement Plan. It is recommended that candidates meet with their advisor each semester.
- ❖ The plan outlines the course of study progression for content courses and field experiences. Any deviation from this plan must be approved by the advisor.
- ❖ Your advisor can assist you professionally with other program related issues.

Applications

Applications are required for advancement to field experiences and the MA capstone. Candidates are responsible for submitting applications on specified due dates; failure to meet deadlines may result in program interruption. Applications and deadlines are posted on the SPE Website.

Preliminary Credential Programs

❖ Student Teaching Option

- Application to Early Field
 - M/M & M/S - SPE 556
 - ECSE - SPE 549&550
- Application to Final Field
 - M/M - SPE 579
 - M/S - SPE 576
 - ECSE - SPE 575

❖ Intern Option

- Application to Early Field*
 - M/M, M/SE, ECSE - SPE 523
 - Checklist for SPE 525&526
- Application to Final Field
 - M/M - SPE 569
 - M/S - SPE 566
 - ECSE - SPE 555

* This is the state application for the 2-year Intern Credential.

Masters Capstone

- ❖ Application to “sit” for the Masters Comprehensive Examination.
- ❖ Candidates must have continuous enrollment to sit for the examination.
- ❖ Candidates who wish to write a thesis must contact their advisor.

Course Substitution & Exception

- ❖ Course substitution with verified equivalent coursework (transcript) must be approved by the program (advisor and chair) and a credential analyst.
- ❖ MA candidates may only transfer in 9 units of coursework.
- ❖ Credential candidates may not substitute methods or fieldwork courses.
- ❖ Exception: 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 TED coursework.

Change of Objective

- ❖ Candidates seeking to change the following must see their advisor to complete a Change of Objective form:
 - Program: M/M, M/S, ECSE
 - Program Pathway Option: Student Teaching, Intern
 - Candidates transitioning from or to the Intern Program must see the Intern Coordinator
- ❖ Candidates seeking to add the Masters Degree after program admission must see their advisor to complete a Change of Objective form indicating this addition to their course of study.

Grade Appeals and Petitions

- ❖ Procedures for grade appeals and petitions are established by university policy (see Catalog).
- ❖ Candidates who wish to appeal a grade or need to petition the program for any reason should:
 - Contact their advisor or the program chair.
 - Review the University policy on grade appeals and petitions.
 - Obtain appropriate forms to complete these processes.
- ❖ SAP Letter (financial unit cap)

Candidate Responsibilities

In order to successfully complete your program in a timely manner, the faculty encourages you to do the following:

- ❖ Read and adhere to information in the University Catalog and your Special Education Program Handbook.
- ❖ See your advisor to develop your Advisement Plan.
- ❖ Register early! Classes fill up!
- ❖ Pay fees on time or you may be dropped from classes.
- ❖ Join the SPE Advising Organization on Blackboard. Updated program information is disseminated through this Blackboard Organization.
- ❖ Register for TaskStream.