

Special Education

Program Overview

Special Educator Endorsement: Program Description

Eastern Oregon University offers practicing and preservice teachers opportunities to pursue their interests and professional objectives in the field of special education. The Special Educator Endorsement Program is designed to provide comprehensive training and experience and to prepare prospective teachers of students with disabilities for state licensure. Course work, field experience, and practica are balanced within the program to meet individual teacher preparation needs. The program provides theoretical and applied instruction pertaining to the characteristics of exceptional learners, the legal and procedural aspects of special education, assessment, planning, instruction, behavior management, collaboration and critical issues in the field.

Credit Hour Requirements

The Special Educator Endorsement authorizes teachers to teach exceptional learners at the early childhood/elementary level and/or at the middle/high school level. The Special Educator Endorsement Program, with a single level authorization requires the completion of 32-36 credit hours of specified course work, field work and practicum experiences. A second level authorization requires the completion of additional 11-15 credits of specified field work and practicum experiences.

Course Offerings and Schedule

The Special Educator Endorsement Program is offered through a cohort model over a two-year cycle, and is designed to meet the needs of working professionals. Students must begin the program at the start of a cycle and progress through the program, taking all courses in the sequence in which they are offered. The next cycle begins in June, 2008 with a three week summer session offered on the Eastern campus. During the ensuing academic year, approximately one course per term is provided to students in the Eastern Oregon region through a combination of delivery methods (e.g., vtel, Saturday on campus meetings, online instruction). A second three-week summer session on the Eastern campus is followed by a second academic year of courses offered via multiple delivery methods. Please note that it is not possible to complete the Special Education Endorsement program entirely online.

Course work completed for the Special Educator Endorsement may be applied toward the Master of Science degree in Education.

Admission Requirements

- Completion of a bachelor's degree
- Completion of basic/initial teaching license
- A grade point average of 3.0 in upper division and/or graduate course work
- Admission to Graduate level status at Eastern Oregon University

Application Procedure

(Application Deadline: May 2, 2008)

- Completed *Special Education Endorsement Program Application* (Go to http://www.eou.edu/ed/graduate/special_ed.html to download application)
- Copy of current teaching license and letters from TSPC, where applicable
- Three recent letters of recommendation addressing teaching ability, scholarship and character
- Copies of all graduate and undergraduate transcripts
- Copies of test results, where applicable
- Completed *Character Questionnaire* (Go to http://www.eou.edu/ed/graduate/special_ed.html to download application)
- Completed application to EOU for Graduate Admission (Go to <http://www.eou.edu/admit/apply.html>)

Students accepted into the Special Educator Endorsement program will receive extensive advising to assist them in developing a program plan that coordinates their professional goals and timelines with University requirements and offerings.

Program Completion Requirement

Program completion and recommendation for Oregon licensure require that candidates:

1. Complete all required course work with a grade of C or better.
2. Maintain an overall grade point average in the program of 3.0 or better.
3. Complete work samples required in the culminating field work and practicum assignments.
4. Demonstrate average or higher levels of competency in all areas indicated on the *Special Educator Competency Evaluation* form, as rated by University and site supervisors.
5. Obtain passing scores on the National Teacher Exam/Praxis Specialty Area test in special education. (Go to <http://www.ets.org/portal/site/ets/menuitem.fab> and click on Praxis test)

For Additional Information Contact

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