

MIDDLE-LEVEL SCIENCE/ MATH (4-8) AND SPECIAL EDUCATION (PREK-12) CERTIFICATION

Program Description

In our Dual Certification Program, you'll embark on a dynamic journey to become a highly skilled educator capable of effectively teaching and supporting students in grades 4 through 8, with a specialized focus on meeting the needs of students with diverse learning requirements across all grade levels.

Middle Level (4-8) Education Focus: Beginning with the Middle Level (4-8) Education component, you'll immerse yourself in a comprehensive curriculum designed to equip you with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate the unique needs of students in these pivotal years. Delve into key concepts in child and adolescent development, curriculum design, instructional strategies, and assessment techniques tailored specifically to this age group. Through hands-on experiences and practical applications, you'll learn to create engaging learning environments that foster academic success, social-emotional development, and positive relationships with students. Our program places a strong emphasis on collaboration, cultural responsiveness, and the promotion of equity and inclusion in education. Upon completion, you'll emerge as a confident and competent educator prepared to make a meaningful impact on the lives of middle-level students.

Special Education Integration: Interwoven throughout the program is our PreK-12 Special Education curriculum. Here, you'll gain a comprehensive understanding of how to support students with diverse learning needs, including those with disabilities, across all grade levels. From learning about various disabilities to developing interventions and instructional strategies tailored to individual student needs, you'll acquire essential skills. Through coursework and field experiences, you'll hone your abilities in assessment, curriculum adaptation, behavior management, and collaboration with families and professionals. Our program maintains a strong focus on fostering inclusive learning environments, promoting equity, and advocating for the rights of students with disabilities. Upon completion, you'll be prepared to effectively support and empower students with disabilities to reach their full potential academically, socially, and emotionally.

This dual certification program offers a powerful combination of middle-level education expertise and special education knowledge, ensuring that you're equipped to meet the diverse needs of all students. Upon completion, you'll emerge as a versatile and highly qualified educator ready to create inclusive, engaging, and supportive learning environments that foster success for all students, especially those with disabilities

Required for Program Completion

45 Credits

Core Courses

- EDC 503 Cognitive, Social, and Emotional Development
- EDC 510 Human Diversity
- EDC 613 The Role of the Developmentally-Oriented Teacher

Certification Courses

- EDC 512 Introduction to the Middle School
- BLS 601 Techniques of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages
- EDC 617 Reading in the Content Areas
- EDC 619 Introduction to Assessment and Instruction of Reading and Writing Difficulties
- EDC 641 Teaching Science as Integrated Inquiry
- EDC 642 Development of Mathematical Thought
- EDC 644 Assessing the Needs of All Learners

Inclusion Practicum

- EDC 643 Developing and Adjusting Instruction
- EDC 645 Planning and Instruction for Students with Special Needs
- EDC 661 Teaching All Students in Inclusive and Special Education Settings

Professional Semester

- EDC 662 Elementary and Special Education Student Teaching (candidates with no teaching experience)

OR

- EDC 669 Elementary and Special Education Supervised Teaching/ Transitional Teaching
 - Early Elementary and Special Education Supervised Teaching (candidates with two or more years of teaching experience and currently employed as teachers or teaching assistants and with approval of the Candidacy Committee)
- EDC 679 Special Methods of Teaching (seminar that accompanies student teaching)

Course	Title	Credits
First Year		
First Semester		
EDC 503	Cognitive, Social, and Emotional Development	3
EDC 510	Human Exceptionalities	3
		Credits
		6
Second Semester		
EDC 512	Introduction to the Middle School	3
EDC 617	Reading in the Content Areas for Secondary Educators	3
		Credits
		6
Third Semester		
EDC 643	Developing and Adjusting Instruction	3
EDC 645	Planning and Instruction for Students with Special Needs	3
EDC 661	Teaching All Students in Inclusive and Special Education Settings	3
		Credits
		9
Second Year		
First Semester		
BLS 601	Techniques of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages	3
EDC 641	Teaching Science as Integrated Inquiry	3
EDC 642	Development of Mathematical Thought	3
		Credits
		9
Second Semester		
EDC 613	The Role of the Developmentally Oriented Teacher	3
EDC 662 or EDC 669	Elementary and Special Education Student Teaching or Elementary and Special Education Supervised Teaching/Transitional Teaching	3

EDC 662 Elementary and Special Education Student Teaching

Required of all Elementary and Special Education Certification candidates with no teaching experience. Prerequisite(s): Must be taken as final course in certification sequence.

**EDC 669 Elementary and Special Education Supervised Teaching/
Transitional Teaching**

This course can, with permission of the Candidacy Committee, replace student teaching for candidates with one or more years teaching experience who are also currently employed as teachers. For one semester, the supervised teacher is observed and guided by University faculty while teaching in his/her own current private or public school position. The supervised teacher also conducts an action research project. Required of all certification candidates who are not required to take student teaching. Prerequisite(s): Must be taken as final course in certification sequence.

EDC 679 Elementary and Special Education Special Methods of Teaching

Weekly seminars held either on campus or at the practicum site designed to help students translate theory into practice by exploring teaching methods in the chosen area of certification. Research project required. Required of all certification candidates. Prerequisite(s): Must be taken as final course in certification sequence.

Course Descriptions

Education