



Academic Learning Compact

Special Education

Program Mission Statement

The mission of the initial certification programs in Exceptional, Deaf, and Interpreter Education (EDIE) is to prepare highly qualified teaching candidates with the knowledge, skills, dispositions, and cultural/linguistic competencies to meet the diverse educational and accessibility needs of children and young adults in educational and community settings. Teacher candidates who enroll in this program will spend time in clinical/field settings working with children with disabilities. Along with teacher candidates, faculty are actively engaged in research on issues related to individuals with disabilities and participate actively in professional organizations that are dedicated to the education and service of children and their families.

Student Learning Outcomes

Graduates will be able

Content/Discipline-Specific Knowledge/Skills

- Devise an effective research study to data collection, research designs, and theory for making instructional decisions.
- Evaluate lessons taught and discuss improvements needed for future lessons based on student performance, observational feedback, and self-assessment.
- Demonstrate knowledge, skills, and dispositions of teaching competencies related to students with exceptional learning needs.

Communication Skills

- Design an effective system for collaborating with teachers, para-professionals, parents and other professionals.
- Demonstrate the use of technology as a tool for teaching and communicating with students, parents, and other professionals.

Critical Thinking Skills

- Design a classroom management plan to include effective learning and behavioral strategies, philosophy of education, and the physical environment.

Assessment Approaches

Candidates in the B.A.E in Special Education program is assessed in the following ways. In key courses, candidates are assessed by means of written examinations, field and case-based instructional projects, audio-visual, oral and teaching presentations, and research papers, all of which are rated using agreed upon rubrics. In the final semester of the program, each candidate will complete an internship. Examples of specific approaches include the following: In EEX 4616, candidates demonstrate knowledge of management theories by developing a Classroom Management Philosophy Plan, which shows how theories are applied in the k-12 setting (Critical Thinking). In EEX 4604, candidates complete a Behavior Change project to demonstrate their ability to think critically about behaviors observed in the learning environment (Decision-Making). From those observations, they employ evidence-based strategies to reduce inappropriate behaviors and improve learning. In EEX 4753, candidates research a variety of communication and collaborative strategies that are applicable with in a variety of instructional settings. For example, in this course (EEX 4753), candidates develop a case study for interacting with paraprofessionals and other stakeholders in the field (Collaboration). In EEX 4255, candidates identify the use of appropriate technology in the classroom and demonstrate integration of its use in lesson plan development and presentation (Utilization). Additionally, In EDF 4945 and 4946 candidates work in actual classroom settings under the supervision of a clinical instructor, where they demonstrate the ability to plan instruction for school-aged children. They then teach these lessons and then reflect on their teaching performance and learning outcomes. Based on the results of the school-aged students' performance and feedback from the clinical instructor, future lessons are modified to better meet professional goals and objectives (Reflection/Changes). During the capstone internship experience (EEX 4861), candidates' performance is evaluated by a directing teacher and a university supervisor in the field with respect to instructional practices, assessment and evaluation, classroom management, communication skills, interpersonal interactions and professionalism and technical skills (Demonstration).