

MEd Special Education - High Incidence, Alternative Certification

The special education high incidence alternative certification program at WSU provides an alternative route to the special education teaching profession and is geared toward individuals who have experience working as paraprofessionals.

The program prepares reflective practitioners who possess both theoretical understanding and practical skills for teaching students with mild to moderate disabilities. Candidates fulfill teacher licensure requirements in the first 30–31 credit hours (two years). Students must complete an additional 7 credit hours for the MEd degree. Courses are offered fully online. Candidates must continue full-time employment as a special education teacher while completing their coursework. Loss of employment or continuous improvement will result in dismissal from the program.

Admission

To be considered for admission to the Special Education High incidence alternative certification program, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Full admission to the WSU Graduate School;
- Section A and B of KSDE Form 24 that provides necessary applicant information for the Limited Apprentice License, as well as evidence of the following:
 - A special education - high incidence teaching contract in an accredited Kansas school district with a start date that is no earlier than the anticipated first day of the second semester in the program, and
 - Verification of having worked as a paraprofessional for at least one year. Section A is to be completed and signed by the applicant. Section B is to be completed and signed by a district level administrator;
- Letter of recommendation from a building or district level administrator that highlights the strengths as an educator and the school district's commitment to mentoring.

Applications are evaluated when received for the special education high incidence alternative certification program.

Program Requirements

Background Check

Upon admission and prior to their first semester, all applicants admitted to this program must clear a criminal background check. There are two reasons for this requirement. First, it is part of the university's due diligence before placing students in field settings. Second, the check may alert applicants or students to issues that may subsequently affect their ability to work in their chosen field. In instances when a person's criminal history raises reasonable concerns that should be cleared to engage in the field experiences and/or subsequently obtain licensure/endorsement, WSU may take a range of actions, including rescission of admission or dismissal from the program, depending on the nature of the concern.

For information regarding this requirement, visit: Advanced Programs (<https://wichita.edu/clesadvancedprograms>).

Course	Title	Hours
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Preparatory Coursework

Taken as a cohort during the first semester of the program while still employed as a paraprofessional. If summer start, employment as a paraprofessional not required.

CI 784	Foundations of Education for Individuals with Exceptionalities	3
CI 506	Introduction to the Education Profession for Special Educators	2
CI 556	Instructional Planning and Classroom Management	2
Required Core Courses		
Students must start full-time employment as a special education teacher.		
CI 557	Integrated Seminar and Mentoring ¹	3-4
CI 724	Introduction to Teaching Strategies for Students With Mild/Moderate Disabilities	3
CI 749A	Practicum: High-Incidence Learners	3
CI 796	Family and Professional Collaboration	3
CI 812	Transition across Life Span	2
CI 815	Advanced Teaching Strategies for Students with Mild/Moderate Disabilities ²	2
CI 815A	Internship/Practicum: Advanced Teaching Strategies for Students with Mild/Moderate Disabilities ³	1
CI 818	Positive Behavior Supports for Students With Exceptionalities ⁴	3
CI 818A	Internship/Practicum: Positive Behavior Supports ⁵	1
CI 822	Principles of Nondiscriminatory Assessment for Students With Exceptionalities	2
Research Component		
CLES 801	Introduction to Educational Research	3
CI 875 or CI 862	Master's Thesis ⁶ Evidence-Based Inquiry: Capstone Project Proposal	2
CI 876 or CI 863	Master's Thesis ⁷ Evidence-Based Inquiry: Capstone Project	2
Total Credit Hours		37-38

- ¹ Students must enroll in CI 557 every fall and spring semester for 1 credit hour in addition to their other required core courses. Regular live online meetings are required as part of this course.
- ² Must be taken with CI 815A.
- ³ Must be taken with CI 815. Requires a B- or better.
- ⁴ Must be taken with CI 818A.
- ⁵ Must be taken with CI 818. Requires a B- or better.
- ⁶ Requires completion of all preparatory and required core courses, as well as CLES 801.
- ⁷ Requires completion of all preparatory and required core courses, as well as completion of CI 875 or 862.

Note: Students are eligible to take Praxis exams for teacher licensure after completion of all of the preparatory and required core courses and approval from a faculty advisor.