



District Cohort Partnership
Graduate Certificate – Special Education

Description of Cohort

The College of Education at WilmU is dedicated to finding innovative ways to help our Delaware educators and students receive the support they need to succeed. Over the last year, the University has started partnering with school districts across the state of Delaware to increase the number of qualified educators in high needs areas. We developed a cohort certificate program to accomplish this. Wilmington University offers three different graduate level certificates:

- Special Education: K-12 Teacher of Students with Disabilities
- Special Education: Autism and Severe Intellectual Disabilities
- Special Education: Early Childhood Exceptional Children

All three of these certificates can be completed in less than a year (five 3-credit courses) and with the cohort program, students can work collaboratively with their colleagues to complete the courses with instructors, modalities, and locations chosen by the district.

We offer a tuition discount benefit and waive admissions and e-folio fees for districts that use the cohort format.

Benefits of the Cohort

- 10% tuition discount
- Admissions fee & Taskstream fee both waived
- District chooses the modality most convenient for candidates
- If the district uses their own instructors, we take care of the onboarding process
- Districts can choose to use WilmU instructors
- Districts can use grant or district money when applicable
- Cohorts are complete in less than one year's time (5 courses total - 3 credits each)
- Increased number of teachers more qualified in high needs areas
- Candidates are able to collaborate with other teachers in the district

Cohort Construction

1. MSE Program Chair establishes COELA Study Group
 - a. MSE Program Chair conducts preliminary meetings with district partners
2. MSE Program Chair seeks approval from Academic Affairs
 - a. MSE Program Chair is responsible for



- i. Collecting cohort information from district representative
 - ii. Admissions of cohort district teachers
 - iii. Construction of Welcome Letters
 1. Program Planning Conference Forms for candidates
 - iv. Registrar
 1. Course creation for cohort
 2. Assigning instructors to courses
 3. Registration of teachers
 - v. Taskstream
 1. Account Activation
 2. Creation of TS code and letter
 - vi. Billing - district business office
3. District Representative Responsibilities
- a. Provides cohort information
 - i. Certificate type
 - ii. Start date
 - iii. Modality of courses
 1. Hybrid or F2F need dates and times
 - iv. Instructors
 1. District or WilmU
 2. Instructor-Course assignments
 - b. Provides candidate information
 - i. First & last names
 - ii. Email addresses
 - c. Provides billing information
 - i. Name of bill recipient(s)

Certificate Options

Graduate Certificate in Special Education: Autism/Severe Intellectual Disabilities

The purpose of this certificate in Teacher of Students with Autism/Severe Intellectual Disabilities is to prepare master's level educators to teach children and young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder, intellectual disabilities, multiple disabilities, and other developmental disabilities. The goal of this certificate is to provide research/evidence-based techniques and strategies to assess students and use the results to develop goals and implement plans based on student needs and targeted outcomes. The coursework will prepare teachers to design and implement evidence-based instruction aligned to alternative learning standards.

Coursework:

MED 6102 E-Folio

MSE 7501 Introduction to Autism & Severe Disabilities

MSE 7402 Applied Behavior Analysis



MSE 7506 Functional Communication for Individuals with Autism and Severe Intellectual Disabilities
MSE 7409 Methods of Instruction in Academic Standards and Functional Skills
MSE 7507 Competency-Based Practicum in Behaviorally-Based Teaching Techniques

Graduate Certificate in Special Education: K-12 Teachers of Students with Disabilities

The purpose of this Certificate in Special Education Teacher of Students with Disabilities is to prepare educators to teach students with exceptionalities in grades K-12. Students with exceptionalities must be taught by professionals who are trained in the identification, assessment, and teaching of individuals with exceptionalities. The goal of this Certificate is to provide candidates with the opportunity to complete research-based coursework with assignments and performance tasks aligned to the appropriate subject area and grade level. Candidates will gain the skills and knowledge to complete formative and summative assessments, use data to differentiate and deliver instruction, develop and implement Individualized Education Programs and Behavior Intervention Plans, and collaborate with IEP/504 teams, parents and professionals to meet the needs of all students.

Coursework:

MED 6102 E-Folio
MSE 7403 Diag/Assessment/IEP Development for Students with Exceptionalities
MSE 7405 Curriculum in Special Education
MSE 7402 Applied Behavior Analysis
MSE 7901 Diag/Assessment of Reading Difficulties for Non-Reading/Literacy Majors
& one of the following:
MSE 8102 Legislation and Implementation of Policy & Procedure
MSE 7407 Teaming/Collaboration with Families & Communities
MSE 7406 Transition Planning & IEP Imp. for Students with Disabilities
MSE 7404 Assistive Technology

Graduate Certificate in Special Education: Early Childhood Exceptional Children

The purpose of this certificate in Early Childhood/Exceptional Children, Special Education Teacher is to prepare educators to teach young children, birth to grade two, who demonstrate a range of exceptionalities. The goal of the certificate is to provide coursework in instructional and family-based assessment and early intervention, skills to collaborate with parents and professionals, strategies and techniques to differentiate instruction, and an understanding of culturally and linguistically diverse students.

Coursework:

MED 6102 E-Folio
MSE 7502 Educating Preschoolers with Special Needs



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MSE 7603 Assessment of Young Children

MSE 7605 Differentiation of Instruction for Young Children

MSE 7607 Emergent Literacy for Young Children

MSE 7407 Teaming/Collaboration with Families & Communities