ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Potential students must meet the following requirements:

- A completed online graduate application, accompanied by the $50 application fee.
- A bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution.
- A copy of current teaching license (if seeking second licensure).
- A letter of intent including reasons for applying to the program and professional goals.
- Current resume.
- Official college transcripts sent to Graduate Admissions showing a cumulative GPA of no less than 3.0; GPA’s below 3.0 require completion of the GRE.
- Names and contact information for two professional references.
- Acceptable criminal background check.

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* Required prerequisite if no equivalent coursework complete.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SED 515 Human Exceptionalities Across the Lifespan (3)
Required prerequisite course if no equivalent transferred coursework.
This course is a survey of human exceptionalities, exploring historical and legal aspects in the field of special education, the nature and needs of individuals with special needs, and the roles of schools, parents and society in supporting individuals with special needs. An overview of the federal and state laws governing the education of students with disabilities is presented. Lifelong issues in living with a disability are explored. A 20- hour field component is included.

SED 521: Com Develop & Theories for Multicultural Environments (3)
Prerequisite: SED 515
This course explores theories of first and second language acquisition. Emphasis is on affective, cultural, linguistic, and cognitive factors that influence the language acquisition process with application to classroom practice. An overview of the nature and needs of children with communication disorders will also be included. A clinical experience is required with this course.
SED 524 School, Home Support and Intervention Pre-Kindergarten Special Needs (3)
Prerequisite(s): SED 521, SED 534
This introductory course covers the educational and emotional needs of young children with disabilities and the techniques for implement a “whole child” and inclusive educational approach. The course promotes an understanding of stressors, transitions, and issues that families of children with disabilities may encounter during their child’s early intervention. Approaches such as transdisciplinary teaming, family-centered intervention and cross cultural competencies will be covered. Multicultural research findings on roles of families in education and uses of language and literacy in the community will be examined. Federal and state regulations pertaining to early response will be included. A cross cultural perspective on how families view disabilities and interventions will be included. 10 Field Hours Required.

SED 534 Methods/Materials for Pre-Kindergarten Special Needs (3)
Prerequisite: SED 521
Theories of early childhood development as they relate to all aspects of the classroom will be examined. Focus on creating developmentally appropriate learning environments that are culturally responsive to the needs of young children ages 3-5 with special needs; utilizing an integrated, hands-on approach to curriculum; and developing classroom management strategies that foster development of preschool to kindergarten behavior. The early intervention specialist’s role as facilitator in the learning process is stressed, with emphasis on understanding physical, cognitive, social, emotional and cultural needs as they relate to the learning process. Special emphasis on understanding risk and resiliency factors; how to create protective environments that foster healthy development; partnerships with other professionals and families on early intervention will be examined. Case studies and on-site observations of learning facilities and planning of educational experiences appropriate for early intervention are included. 10 Field Hours Required.

SED 662 Internship for Pre-Kindergarten Special Needs (1)
Prerequisite(s): SED 521, SED 534, SED 665
Guided observation and practice teaching, plus meeting with college mentor; graduate students learn to apply developmentally appropriate strategies that are culturally responsive to early intervention special education environments. Students will complete a 55 hour practicum for a full semester.

SED 665 Medical Issues & Learning Process Pre-Kindergarten Special Needs (3)
Prerequisite: SED 521
This course examines the medical aspects of specific health conditions associated with learners with special needs for ages 3 - 5. The integration of health care plans into classroom instruction is covered. Medical emergencies, physical management and training techniques for teaching personal care are covered. Issues in participating on transdisciplinary teams and the roles of community medical personnel are included. Intervention strategies for managing medical and educational needs for children with severe behavior problems will be covered. 10 Field Hours required.