

May 5, 2004

**Department of Special Education**

**MASTER OF EDUCATION IN PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE  
(WITHOUT Teacher Licensure)**

**COURSE WORK**

**I. *Research Methods*.....3 Semester Hours**

**Special Education 6610** Introduction to Research Methods

**II. *Professional Practice Graduate Courses*.....12 Semester Hours**

Students with the approval of their graduate advisor must select a **minimum of four courses** from the list below to complete the professional practice graduate course requirement.

- SPED 6960, Schoolwide Discipline and Positive Behavioral Support (2 credit hours)
- SPED 6631, Assessment and Instructional Interventions for Reading Difficulties (3 credit hours)
- Assistive Technology Courses (up to 9 credit hours available summers only):
  - SPED 6611, Augmentative and Alternative Communication Recommended Practices (3 credit hours)
  - SPED 6612, Electronic Communication Aids (3 credit hours)
  - SPED 6613, Augmentative and Alternative Communication Instructional Strategies (3 credit hours)
- SPED 6630, Collaborative Educational Problem-Solving (3 credit hours available summers only)
- SPED 6620, Parent/Professional Collaboration (3 credit hours)

**III. *Elective Graduate Courses in Special Education*.....Minimum 9 semester hours<sup>1</sup>**

Students must select a **minimum of 9 hours of graduate coursework** (6000 or 7000 level) in the Department of Special Education or an outside area. Prior approval by the student's graduate advisor is required for all course work outside of the Department of Special Education.

Graduate courses may be taken in teacher education or advanced research methods.

**Teacher Education Core**

- Early Childhood Special Education
- Mild to Moderate Disabilities
- Severe Disabilities
- Hearing Impairments
- Vision Impairments

<sup>1</sup> Students admitted to the program who do not have background in the field of special education may have to take up to a maximum of six additional credit hours as determined by their graduate advisor.

### **Advanced Research Methods**

- SPED 7010, Group Design and Research Analysis
- SPED 6020, Single Subject Research Design
- Qualitative Research (Offered through the Department of Educational Psychology)

### **IV. Allied Area Courses.....6 Semester Hours**

Students must take a **minimum of 6 semester hours outside** of the Department of Special Education. Students must obtain approval from their graduate advisor prior to registering for these courses. These courses should focus on an area of interest relevant to the student's professional and academic development.

### **Total Credit Hours.....Minimum 30 Semester Hours**

#### **Graduate Supervisory Committee**

Each student must establish a **three-member supervisory committee** to assist in completing study requirements and evaluate the final comprehensive examination. Students are encouraged to form their Supervisory Committee after **completing 9 semester hours** of graduate work.

At least two members of the Supervisory Committee must be on the faculty in the Department of Special Education. In addition, students must select a faculty member from the Department of Special Education with a tenure-track rank of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, or Professor to serve as chair of their supervisory committee.<sup>2</sup> If desired, students may select a committee member from another department or college at the University of Utah. Generally, a faculty member from outside of the Department of Special Education should have knowledge and expertise in the student's allied area of study. All committee members must hold a Master's or Doctoral degree.

#### **Qualifying Exam for Admission to Candidacy**

Students admitted to the M.Ed. Professional Practice Program are urged to form their supervisory committee and take the qualifying exam within the first or second semester of graduate studies. Prior to completion of the qualifying exam, students may enroll in any special education graduate or allied area courses as approved by his/her graduate advisor. However, **prior to taking the exam each student should have a basic knowledge of special education practice either through course work (such as the content in Special Education 3010/5010 and/or Special Education 5011/6011) or prior experience.**

The qualifying exam is offered fall, spring, and summer semester, and students must be enrolled for a minimum of 3 credit hours in the semester the exam is administered. Consult the Department of Special Education Student Handbook and see Patty Davis, Department Academic Advisor, for details and timelines. Upon successful completion

of the qualifying exam, each student is admitted to candidacy in the University of Utah Graduate School and allowed to take the final comprehensive examination.

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<sup>2</sup>A clinical faculty member who holds a Ph.D. degree and has been approved by the tenure-track faculty and the University Graduate School may also serve as chair of a master of education degree committee. For more information, contact the Department of Special Education, Office of Academic Advising.

### **Residency Requirement**

Each student must **spend a minimum of one year** (i.e., two consecutive semesters) in **full-time study** (at least nine credit hours per semester) at the University of Utah. Students are expected to complete their masters program within **four years** from the time they are matriculated. In general, completion of the M.Ed. Professional Practice Program will require a minimum of **one year of full-time study**. Previous graduate work may be applied to the requirements of the program if (a) approved by the student's supervisory committee, and (b) consistent with University Graduate School Policy.

### **Continuous Enrollment**

Candidates must be continuously enrolled in a **minimum of 3 credit hours** during Fall and Spring semesters until completion of the degree program. Enrollment during Summer semester is not required.

### **Final Comprehensive Exam** (Written or Oral Presentation)

The **M.Ed. Final Comprehensive exam is taken in the student's final semester of graduate work**. A student must be enrolled for a **minimum of three credit hours during the semester in which the exam** is administered. Eligibility includes successful completion of the qualifying exam and admission to candidacy. The Final Comprehensive Exam is administered by the student's graduate supervisory committee. Students should consult their graduate advisor for details. An explanation of the written and oral presentation options for the final comprehensive examination may also be found in the Department of Special Education Student Handbook.