

Integrated Dual Licensure B.S. in Elementary/Special Education Advisement Manual

For students beginning at UNR in Fall 2009

Department of Educational Specialties
University of Nevada, Reno
College of Education

Thank you for your interest in the Integrated Program in Elementary and Special Education! We think we have an exciting program that will prepare you for today's inclusive schools as either a special education or a general education teacher. We want to provide you with a high-quality experience as you gain the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to become an outstanding educator!

Degree Program - As a prospective teacher, you will earn a bachelor's degree upon completion of the designated four-year program of study (128 credits). This culminates in a 20-week (16 credit) internship that includes experiences both in elementary and special education.

Program Organization - Your program is referred to as an integrated program because the coursework you take in elementary and special education integrates content from both areas, along with practicum experiences in the schools. When you first enter the university, you will take courses primarily in liberal studies to continue your own intellectual growth. As you progress through your program of study, you will find that liberal studies courses give way to blocks of courses in professional education coursework.

Teaching License - Completion of the DUAL program enables you to apply for a Nevada teaching license in Elementary Education (K-8) and Special Education (Generalist Resource – K-12).

Program Accreditation - Teacher education programs at the University of Nevada, Reno, are accredited by the National Council for Accreditation in Teacher Education (NCATE), the most prestigious accrediting agency for teacher preparation programs. National accreditation means our program has met the highest standards of the profession. Our accreditation also makes it easier for you to become licensed in other states if you relocate after completion of the program.

II. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE ELEMENTARY & SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The selection of courses within the program must be made with the approval of your assigned Advisor. Always refer to the University of Nevada, Reno General Catalog for general information and to your DARS report and advisement manual for specific details. It is your responsibility to adhere to degree requirements, time lines, and UNR and College of Education policies and procedures.

The courses that make up the dual major are arranged in a specific sequence that builds on your knowledge and skill in elementary and special education. The sequence on page 5 should be followed as closely as possible. Courses designated as BLOCKED must be taken together and the blocks must be completed in the order indicated.

III. MEETING UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE OF EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

While you are a student at UNR, you will be working to meet both University of Nevada requirements for graduation and College of Education requirements for Nevada licensure as a teacher. These requirements are not always the same. If you transfer credits from another institution, your work will first be evaluated for the University's Core Curriculum requirements. Once that is done, your education Advisor can evaluate the remaining courses according to College of Education requirements. Your Education Advisor **cannot** approve Core Curriculum requirements.

Core Curriculum Requirements (UNR) - The University requires that you complete the Core Curriculum, a general studies curriculum that is intended to help you become a well-educated person with competent reading, writing and thinking skills. The Core Curriculum includes courses in English, mathematics, sciences, social science, core humanities, fine arts, and diversity. The requirements for the Core Curriculum are met with the courses you will be taking in the Dual Program. You are required to take two Capstone Courses to complete your general university studies. In the dual program, you must take *EDUC 413 Education in a Changing World* as one of your Capstone courses. The other must be taken in a social science area (preferably in History).

College of Education Requirements - As a teacher, you will teach a number of different subject areas at a variety of grade levels. With so many possibilities, you must have a strong background in basic subjects (English, mathematics, science and social studies), as well as other more specialized areas. Therefore, the College of Education requirements exceed the University's requirements for general education. By following the sequence in this manual, you will meet both the Core Curriculum and the Dual Program requirements.

Outstanding scholarship is recognized by the Dean of the College of Education each semester by naming qualified students to the Dean's List. To be on the Dean's List, students must obtain a 3.65 grade point average the previous semester while taking a minimum of 12 credits. Students meeting the requirements for the Dean's List will be sent a letter from the dean recognizing their academic accomplishments.

IV. RETENTION PROCEDURES

A. Admission to Teacher Education.

Applications for admission to teacher education are accepted twice a year: **October 1** and **March 1**. To be admitted to a teacher education program (which leads to eligibility for a teaching license in Nevada), you must have an overall GPA of 2.75 or better. This overall GPA requirement must be maintained throughout your program. In addition, you must have passed all three sections of the Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST) or CBEST. These grade and test score requirements are minimums and do not guarantee admission to teacher education. A limited number of the most promising students will be accepted into teacher education programs each semester. The number of students accepted will be determined by the space available for students in the advanced courses. Admission to the DUAL teacher education program entitles students to enroll in advanced methods courses (i.e., EDS courses numbered 300 or higher, beginning with the "Developing" block). For further information on the PPST and CBEST and other application procedures for admission to teacher education, please contact the Student Advisement Center in the College of Education (775-784-4298).

To apply for admission to the Integrated Elementary/Special Education teacher education program, students must:

- 1) have completed 30 credits of college course work,
- 2) have a minimum overall GPA of 2.75,
- 3) pass the reading, writing, and mathematics sections of the Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST) or CBEST.
- 4) complete an application form for Admission to Teacher Education,
- 5) submit 2 letters of recommendation from persons who can attest to your potential as a teacher, and
- 6) submit a typed 2-3 page essay on the topic listed on the application.

B. Application for Graduation. Applications for graduation must be purchased from Cashiers in the semester prior to graduation. Applications for December graduation are due May 1, and applications for May or August graduation are due December 1. All requirements for graduation must have been completed or in progress. In order to graduate with a B.S. degree, a student must:

1. meet all the requirements of the CORE curriculum.
2. meet all of the requirements of the DUAL program.
3. have earned a minimum of 128 credits, with a minimum of 40 credits in upper division courses. Required education courses must be passed with a grade of C or higher.
4. have a minimum overall GPA of 2.75.

For details regarding submission of graduation applications, consult the Student Advisement Center in the College of Education.

C. Application for the Supervised Internship. Application for the Supervised Internship must be completed during the semester BEFORE the student plans to intern. Applications for FALL semester are due by FEBRUARY 15; applications for SPRING semester are due by SEPTEMBER 15. This form is available in the office of the Director of Field Experiences. Criteria for approval of the internship include:

1. Completion of ALL required courses.
2. A minimum overall GPA of 2.75. with a grade of C or higher in all required education courses
3. Qualified in the professional judgment of the faculty, based on the ratings given to the Performance Assessment Portfolio I.
4. A current valid substitute teaching license for the State of Nevada and approval as a substitute for Washoe County School District (unless interning in another district).

Students who wish to complete their internships outside of Washoe County must have an overall GPA of 3.0 and complete a special request for placement. See the Director of Field Experiences for this form.

To be eligible for an internship placement (student teaching) in public schools, students must submit to finger printing and a background check. This is best completed by applying for a substitute license in Nevada. Obtaining a substitute license will also make the process of applying for a teaching credential in Nevada much easier. You are eligible to apply for a substitute license immediately upon completion of 62 credits of college course work, including the completion of at least 6 credits of courses in the College of Education.

D. Application for the Teaching License. The license is granted by the Nevada Department of Education in Carson City, Nevada. You must obtain the application from the Nevada Department of Education in Carson City, arrange for forwarding official transcripts, and pay the fee to receive the license. The University does not grant the license. Normally, you will make application during the internship semester.

Praxis II Exam. Under the No Child Left Behind Act, fully qualified teachers are those individuals who hold an appropriate clear Nevada teaching license. A clear license requires that all requirements are complete including passage of appropriate Praxis II exams. Integrated elementary/special education majors will be eligible for graduation as long as you complete all requirements for the degree, but you will not be considered a “program completer” with notice of completion sent to the Nevada Department of Education until you pass all required Praxis II exams.

Due to the stringency of the licensure requirements stipulated in the No Child Left Behind Act, we recommend that Dual majors take the Praxis exam for Elementary Licensure, to be recognized as fully qualified in that area. The two exams for Elementary Licensure are:

- 1) Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment (test #10011) and
- 2) Elementary Education: Content Area Exercises (test # 20012)

V. PROGRAM PREREQUISITES AND OTHER IMPORTANT DETAILS

1. The Integrated Elementary/Special Education program is arranged in **blocks**. All designated **courses in each block must be taken before progressing to the next block**. This means you must be able to take 15 credits each semester.
2. Courses in the dual program are generally offered during **school-time hours** (9:00 am-4:00 pm) in order to arrange for field experiences in the schools. An exception is during the “Refining” block (see the following page). During this semester, you will take one or more courses from 4:00-7:00 pm. It includes experience tutoring a child having difficulties in reading.
3. **Mathematics** - You must take at least one Core math course (Math 120, 128, 176, 178, or 181). The remaining credits in mathematics may be fulfilled by courses numbered 122 or higher. Many students elect to take Math 122 Number Concepts for Elem School Teachers, and Math 123 Stats and Geom Concepts for Elem Teachers. Math 122 and 123 are available through Correspondence Study. We suggest that correspondence study be considered only if you make a B or better in your Core math course. Correspondence study often takes more time than students anticipate. **You must complete the 9 credit mathematics requirement before taking mathematics methods EDES 314.**
4. **Natural Science** - You must either 1) have completed Math 120 or 2) be concurrently enrolled in Math 120 or higher when you enroll in your first Core science course. Your science courses must meet university Core requirements; and you must complete at least one course in each of the following areas: physical science, earth science, life science. **You must complete the 9 credit science requirement before taking science methods EDES 415.**
5. **Capstone Courses - CH 201, 202 & 203** must be completed, and you must be a junior, before taking the required **capstone courses in History and EDUC 413.**
6. **EDU 203 and EDU 208** are prerequisite to **EDU 211 & 209**. EDU 211 & 209 must be taken together and are prerequisites for all EDS courses in the “Developing” Block. All course work must be completed before enrolling in the Internship.
7. In the semester prior to the Supervised Internship (the “Refining” Block), you will submit the Performance Assessment Portfolio I. This is a compilation of papers and projects you have completed in your program, along with reflections about your skill development. Together, these demonstrate your skill as a professional educator and are evaluated by the program faculty. Detailed information about Portfolio I is available from the EDS Department.
8. We value the attitudes and values that you develop in relation to teaching. We call these qualities “dispositions.” You will be asked to assess yourself in relation to these qualities as you progress through the program and at the time you submit Portfolio I. Please note that unprofessional, unethical, or illegal behavior, as well as academic dishonesty, can jeopardize your status in the teacher preparation program.

VI. Sequence for DUAL Program (variations in this schedule must be checked by your advisor to avoid problems with course sequence)

Year	Fall Semester	Spring Semester
1	English 101 Core Math (Math 120 or Math 124 + 152) Core Fine Arts (see catalog) EDU 203 Introduction to Special Education GEOG 106 <p style="text-align: right;">15 credits</p>	English 102 Math 122 GEOL 100 or GEOG 103 EDU 208 Char of Stdnts w/Mild to Mod Disabi EDU 214 Preparing Teachers to Use Techn <p style="text-align: right;">15 credits</p>
2	CH 201 Foundations of Western Culture Math 123 BIOL 100 or ENV 100 EDU 207 Exploration of Children' s Literature EDU 212 Family Involvement for Stdnts w/wo Disabil <p style="text-align: right;">15 credits</p>	Exploring Block * EDU 211 Intro to Teaching in Inclusive Classrms * EDU 209 Exceptional Child Experience EPY 330A Educational Psychology EL 401 Law and Ethics in Education CH 202 The Modern World CHEM 100 or PHYS 100 <p style="text-align: right;">16 credits</p>
3	Developing Block (must be admitted to program) CH203 Americ Experience & Const Chg * EDES 300 Language Arts and Lit: K-3 * EDES 311 Integrated Science, Math, Tech * EDSP 452 Assessment for Special Ed Teachers * EDES 313 “ Developing” Practicum/Seminar <p style="text-align: right;">15 credits</p>	Engaging Block Capstone in Social Science area (History) * EDES 301 Language Arts and Lit: 4-8 * EDES 314 Math Instruct Elem/Special Ed * EDES 315 Social Studies Elem/Special Ed * EDSP 443 Special Educ Curric: Genl Methods * EDES 317 “ Engaging” Practicum/Seminar <p style="text-align: right;">18 credits</p>
4	Refining Block EDUC 413 Educ for a Changing World (capstone) * EDRL 461 Diagnostic Assess and Instruct Literacy * EDSP 433 Case Mgmt/Transition in Special Ed * EDES 415 Difrntiated Instruct in K-8 Science * EDSP 453 Behav Mgmt Tech for Stdts w/Disabil * EDES 413 Refining Tchng Skills: Practic/Seminar <p style="text-align: right;">18 credits</p>	Applying Block EDES 487 Supervised Internship in Elementary and Special Education <p style="text-align: right;">16 credits</p>

* **Blocked Courses.** These courses must be taken concurrently. Courses in one block must be completed before proceeding to any subsequent blocks or courses in those blocks

We recommend that you apply to the program in the first or second semester of year 2. You must be admitted to the program before taking courses in the “Developing” Block.