Special Education

Special educators require skills in adapting general education curricula, making these curricula accessible to students with exceptionalities at all grade levels. Building on the teaching skills required to create reflective, collaborative classrooms, special educators develop instructional strategies to help each individual student "learn how to learn."

Program participants examine issues of learning and teaching such as language acquisition, cultural bias and sensitivity, assessment paradigms and practices, behavior management, instructional adaptation, legal requirements, and family support. Lewis & Clark special education programs emphasize the application of theoretically sound and experimentally validated instructional practices for working with students who present one or multiple learning challenges in the domains of cognition, language, and motor and emotional development from pre-K-12. Participants in this program work with their colleagues and school based leaders in the field of special education to examine current research and promising practices for supporting special education eligible students to improve academic achievement and increase socially acceptable behavior.

Through courses and field experiences focused on the needs of special education students we help good teachers become knowledgeable and skilled special educators.

Licensing Agencies

Lewis & Clark’s graduate programs leading to licensure and endorsement are approved under the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and the Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC).

Special Education Endorsement

The Special Education Endorsement Program was developed to help teachers and administrators work more effectively with students who are eligible for special education. Educators who hold a current Oregon Initial or Continuing teaching license and want to teach in special education may complete the 18-semester hour program and the required special education NES assessment to apply to the Oregon Teaching Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) for the Special Education Endorsement (for information about the Basic/Standard Exceptional Learner I endorsement, see below). Endorsement coursework can also include the requirements for the Oregon Continuing Teaching License, thus allowing the teacher to simultaneously earn the Special Education Endorsement and the Continuing Teaching License. (Students choose whether to complete the endorsement requirements at the Early Childhood/Elementary or the Middle Level/High School authorization levels.)

Endorsement Requirements

A minimum of 18 semester hours, including practicum

A passing score on the Special Education subject-area NES exam

Required Endorsement Courses

Summer I

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<tr>
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<td>SPED 511/629</td>
<td>Needs: Learning and Legal Issues</td>
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<td>Behavior Change Interventions for Students</td>
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<td>SPED 628</td>
<td>Interventions for Severely Challenged Students</td>
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Summer II

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<td>SPED 546/646</td>
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Basic and Standard Exceptional Learner I Endorsements

Teachers who hold an Oregon Basic or Standard teaching license may complete the Exceptional Learner I endorsement through the same 18-semester-hour program as those who hold the Initial I teaching license. Within six years these individuals must also complete an additional 10 semester hours of coursework, as required by TSPC, to obtain the Standard Exceptional Learner I endorsement. For more information about this option, please contact program director Christine Moore.

Master of Education: Special Education With Endorsement

Students seeking the master of education degree with a special education endorsement will complete a 37-semester-hour program, the first 18 hours of which coincide with the Special Education Endorsement (http://docs.lclark.edu/catalog/archive/2012-2013/graduate/teachereducation/specialeducation/endorsementtext) program of study. The remaining 19 hours of the M.Ed. program are designed collaboratively with an advisor. Students work with an advisor to incorporate reading, ESOL, and other courses into their degree. (Students choose whether to complete the endorsement requirements at the Early Childhood/Elementary or the Middle Level/High School authorization levels.)

The program also prepares teachers who currently hold an Initial I Teaching License in Oregon to earn their
Continuing Teaching License.* To be recommended for an Oregon Continuing Teaching License, you must:

1. be admitted to and complete this program of study, including recommendation for degree candidacy
2. have five years of licensed teaching in a K-12 school.

*Teachers holding a Basic or Standard teaching license can earn their Basic and Standard Exceptional Learner I endorsements, as well as the Standard Teaching License, by completing the requirements for this master’s degree program.

Degree Requirements
A passing score on the special education subject-area NES exam
A minimum of 37 semester hours, distributed as follows:
The 18 semester hours required for the Special Education endorsement (http://docs.lclark.edu/catalog/archive/2012-2013/graduate/teachereducation/specialeducation/#endorsementtext)

Additional special education courses are based on student need and adviser recommendation and may include:

- SPED 520/SPED 620 Advanced Instructional Decision 3
- SPED 521/SPED 621 Effective Program Development for Students with Serious Emotional and Behavioral Disorders 3
- SPED 522/SPED 622 Program Development for Severely Challenged Students 2
- SPED 523/SPED 623 Special Topics Seminar 2
- SPED 631 School-Based Consultation 2
- LA 500/LA 634 Language Acquisition and Development 3

Additional courses as determined with advisor may include courses in the Reading (http://docs.lclark.edu/catalog/archive/2012-2013/graduate/teachereducation/languageliteracy/#endorsementtext) or ESOL (http://docs.lclark.edu/catalog/archive/2012-2013/graduate/teachereducation/esolbilingual/) endorsement programs. Courses in other areas of education and counseling may be considered.

Graduate Core Requirement
A minimum of 2 semester hours of Core Program (http://docs.lclark.edu/catalog/archive/2012-2013/graduate/specialprograms/coreprogram/) coursework and one Core convocation

Continuing Teaching License
Teachers holding an Initial I or II Oregon teaching license and who are seeking the Continuing Teaching License may earn the continuing license by completing the requirements of an endorsement program. The requirements for the Continuing Teaching License are embedded in the following endorsement programs:

- ESOL/Bilingual (http://docs.lclark.edu/graduate/teachereducation/esolbilingual/)
- Reading (http://docs.lclark.edu/graduate/teachereducation/languageliteracy/)
- Special Education (http://docs.lclark.edu/graduate/teachereducation/specialeducation/)

By applying to an endorsement program, you are automatically applying to our Continuing Teaching License program. If you successfully complete one of the above endorsement programs, Lewis & Clark will recommended you to the Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) for both the endorsement and an Oregon Continuing Teaching License, if the following conditions have been met:

1. You have been admitted to and complete the required course work, portfolio, and practica in one of the above-listed endorsement programs
2. You have completed all requirements of the Initial I and the Initial II licenses
3. You hold a master’s degree or higher in the arts and sciences or an advanced degree in the professions

Please note that:

- Applicants to TSPC for the Continuing Teaching License are required to have taught five years of at least half-time or more on any non-provisional license appropriate for the assignment; and
- The NES/ORELA or PRAXIS II subject area test, or the appropriate TSPC-approved alternative assessment, is required in order to apply to TSPC for the endorsement. No tests are required by TSPC for the Continuing Teaching License, but since the license requirements are embedded in endorsement programs at Lewis & Clark, all endorsement candidates will need to complete the appropriate required tests regardless. For details, please view the particular endorsement program page (links above).