

Certification Program in PK-12 Special Education

The Penn State Harrisburg certification program in PK-12 Special Education includes two paths for those wanting to become certified in Special Education in Pennsylvania for children from preschool through 12th grade.

Pathway #1 is designed for an individual who currently holds an Instructional I or II certificate in any of the following areas: elementary or early childhood education (N-3, K-6, PK-4, 4-8) any content area in Secondary Education (7-12), Reading Specialist, another PK-12 specialty area

Pathway #2 is designed for an individual who does not hold a Pennsylvania Teaching Certificate. Individuals who are typically interested in this pathway are those who hold a bachelor's degree in an area of human services or social sciences or a related field and have some recent teaching experiences that may include substitute teaching.

Degree Conferred: None – This program is for attaining PA teacher certification only.



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PennState
Harrisburg

**School of Behavioral
Sciences and Education**



**Certification
Program in PK-12
Special Education**

Curriculum

Program Requirements

Penn State Harrisburg has permission from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) to adapt the student teaching requirement in this program since many of the candidates will be school employees already holding initial certification. In such case, an Internship (EDUC 495) with a certified special education teacher is mandated. This course will require a suitable arrangement for candidates to participate fully in the management and instruction of special education at their schools of employment or another placement when possible or necessary. Candidates who are not employed in a school will be placed under the supervision of a certified special education teacher.

Curriculum is based on the PDE Guidelines for Special Education Teacher Certification. Courses are designed to address the competencies outlined in the PDE Guidelines.

Program Notes

A minimum grade of C is required in all courses for certification; however, a 3.0 grade-point average is required to be eligible for student teaching.

Master's Degree Track

All post-baccalaureate candidates have the option of placing themselves on track to earn a Master of Education degree in Teaching and Curriculum while concurrently working toward Pennsylvania certification. If this path interests you, you may seek more information during your initial intake meeting with the program coordinator.

Courses Overview

Education Course Requirements

21-33 Credits Required

Pathway #1 (For those holding an Instructional I PA teaching certificate)

- EDUC 452: Teaching Writing or substitute EDUC 432: Teaching Writing through Children's Literature (3)
- EDUC 477: Reading Interventions (3)
- PSYCH 443: Treatment and Education of Developmental Disabilities (3)
- SPLED 404: Families and Professionals in Special Education (3)
- SPLED 409C: Math for Special Populations
- SPLED 462: Autism and Applied Behavior Analysis (3)
- EDUC 495.001: Special Education Internship (3)

Recently certified teachers will likely have met the following course requirements, however, based on a review of transcripts and teaching experience, the following courses that address Accommodations and Modifications may be required

- EDUC 459: Strategies For Effective Teaching in Inclusive Classrooms (3)
- EDUC 458: Behavior Management Strategies for Inclusive Classrooms (3)
- EDUC 466: Foundations Of Teaching English as a Second Language (3)

Pathway #2 (For those with a bachelor's degree only who do not currently hold a teaching certificate. Pathway #2 candidates will need all of the above Pathway #1 courses, plus the following

- EDUC 820 – Learning Theory
- EDUC 459: Strategies For Effective Teaching in Inclusive Classrooms (3)
- EDUC 458: Behavior Management Strategies for Inclusive Classrooms (3)
- EDUC 466: Foundations Of Teaching English as a Second Language (3)

Field Experience Requirements

- EDUC 495: Special Education Internship/Student Teaching (3 credits)

Candidates complete the internship in their final semester. The Special Education Internship requirements include field experience at the preschool/elementary and secondary levels. Candidates will work with students with a variety of disabilities and complete a project involving a student who uses Assistive Technology or Augmentative Communication.

Intake Interview

All candidates meet with the Professor In Charge for an Intake Interview where their education and teaching experience is reviewed and considered in determining their final program of study.

Program Requirements for Admission

Penn State Harrisburg's certification programs are designed for an individual who holds a baccalaureate degree and seeks to become certified to teach in Pennsylvania elementary or secondary schools.

Students who successfully complete the requirements will be recommended for the a PA Instructional I teaching certificate in their selected certification program area. These programs are approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

To learn more and/or apply to a program, visit <https://harrisburg.psu.edu/teacher-certification>



For a complete list of courses, [visit the University Bulletin](#).