

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.



Contact

Administrative Support Assistant

Katie Martin

kwm19@psu.edu

+1 717 948 6205

Certification Officer

Rebecca Ort

rka12@psu.edu

+1 717 948 6367

Program Coordinator

Linda O. Rhen, Ed.D.

lox29@psu.edu

+1 717 948 6638

Content reviewed and approved Thu October 28, 2021 10:29:49 am



PennState
Harrisburg

777 West Harrisburg Pike
Middletown, PA 17057
Phone: 717-948-6205
Fax: 717-948-6209
harrisburg.psu.edu



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

21-39 Credits Required

Pathway #1 (For those holding PA teaching certificate)

- EDUC 452: Teaching Writing
- 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)*
- EDUC 477: Teaching Struggling Readers And Writers (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 (WC) (3)
- EDUC 495: Special Education Internship (3)

* recently certified teachers will likely have met this course requirement.

Pathway #2 (For those with a bachelor's degree only)

Take all of the above Pathway #1 courses, plus the following:

- EDUC 314: Learning Theory and Instructional Procedures (3)
- EDUC 315Y: Social and Cultural Factors in Education (3)
- One of the following:
- HDFS 129: Introduction to Human Development and Family Studies (3)
- HDFS 229: Infant and Child Development (3)
- HDFS 239: Adolescent Development (3)

Field Experience Requirements (3 Options)

Option One: Candidate-directed Experience

- Available to candidates following Pathway #1 or #2.
- Candidate arranges own clinical observation experience over the course of the first year, with required documentation and assignments.
- Take EDUC 495 Special Education Internship (3 credits) in the final semester, which will address PDE competencies for those in Pathway #1 and #2 and will also incorporate Penn State Harrisburg student teaching competencies for those in Pathway #2.

Option Two: Year-long Clinical Residency

- Available to candidates following Pathway #2.
- Participate in the year-long clinical residency during the final academic year in the program. This includes enrolling in EDUC 495: Internship (3 credits) in the Fall semester and EDUC 490: Student Teaching (9 credits) in the Spring semester.
- Residency can only run from fall to spring.

Option Three: Traditional Approach (clinical residency optional)

- Available to candidates following Pathway #2.
- Take EDUC 313: Field Observation (2 additional credits) concurrently with EDUC 314 (Fall semester only).
- Take EDUC 490: Student Teaching (9 credits) in the final semester.
- Take EDUC 495: Special Education Internship (3 credits) in the final semester. This may be taken during Student Teaching.

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](#).