Department of Teacher Education
PRELIMINARY EDUCATION SPECIALIST CREDENTIAL PROGRAM

**Mild/ Moderate Disabilities**
**Moderate/ Severe Disabilities**

**Credential Program Requirements**

**General Requirements**

1. **Application Fees**
   a. CSU, Stanislaus Graduate Application – for admission as a “graduate” student ($55 fee).
   b. Credential Program Application ($30 fee)

2. **Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirement**
   The required GPA is 2.67 in all baccalaureate and postbaccalaureate coursework or GPA of at least 2.75 in the last 60 units.

3. **Tuberculosis Clearance** - Good for only 4 years.

4. **CCTC Certificate of Clearance- Livescan**

**Admission Requirements**
Applicants may apply before completing the prerequisites. However, the prerequisites must be completed before being accepted into the program.

1. **Verification of Early Field Experience**
   All candidates must complete 45 hours of documented field experience in K-12 classrooms.

2. **Subject Matter Competency**
   Complete one of the following:
   - Elementary level: Pass 3 sections of CSET Multiple Subject.
   - Middle and Secondary Level: Pass CSET Single Subject exam or complete a subject matter preparation program.

3. **Basic Skills Requirements**
   This requirement can be met through one of the following ways:
   - Pass 3 sections of CBEST
   - Pass CSET Writing Skills
   - Pass CSU Early Assessment Program (English and Mathematics Sections) or CSU Placement Examination (English and Math)

4. **Upper-Division Writing**
   Complete an upper-division writing course (listed as WP in the catalog) or submit a verifiable score of 41 or higher on the writing portion of CBEST.

5. **American Government/Constitution**
   Complete PSCI 1201, American Government or an equivalent course that fulfills the U.S. Constitution requirement.

6. **Prerequisite Courses**
   The following courses must be taken and/or in progress prior to applying to the program:
   - EDSE 4310 – Introduction to Special Education Program, 3 units, with a grade of “B” or better.
   - Human Development: Childhood or Adolescents: PSYC/CDEV 3240-Human Development II: Adolescence, 3 units or PSYC/CDEV 3140- Human Development I: Childhood, 3 units

**Preliminary Education Specialist Program Requirements**

1. If an offer of admission is made, complete the following courses:
   - EDMS 4150– Methods of Multilingual Education, 3 units; or EDUC 4400- Intro and Foundations of Multilingual Education; or EDSC 4110- Multilingual Education for Sec Schools, 3 units
   - EDSE 4330- Communication & Social Skills, 3 units
   - EDSE 4750- Applied Behavior Analysis in the Classroom, 3 units
   - EDSE 4550- Practicum with Exceptional Children, 3 units
   - EDSE 4560-Theory of Instructional Design, 3 units
   - EDSE 4110- Reading and Language Arts in General Education, 2 units
   - EDSE 4210- Reading and Language Arts in Special Education, 3 units
   - EDSE 4430- Assessment in Special Education, 3 units
   - EDSE 4410- Consultation and Collaboration, 3 units
   - EDSE 4450- Teaching Students Mild/Moderate, 3 units (if you are seeking the M/M credential) or EDSE 4440- Teaching Students Moderate/ Severe, 3 units (if you are seeking the M/S Credential)

2. After completing coursework with “B” average and verification of subject matter competence, complete the following courses:
   - * EDSE 4815- Student Teaching: Mild/Moderate, 3 units + 3 units = 6 units; enroll twice in a single semester (if you are seeking the M/M credential)
   - * EDSE 4816- Student Teaching: Moderate/Severe, 3 units + 3 units = 6 units; enroll twice in a single semester (if you are seeking the M/S credential)

3. **Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (RICA)**
   www.ricanesinc.com
   RICA is an exit requirement for the Education Specialist Credential. Before candidates are recommended for the credential, verification of passing is required.

**TOTAL UNITS FOR THE EDUCATION SPECIALIST CREDENTIAL: 41 UNITS (6 prerequisite + 35 program units)**

**Applying to the Preliminary Education Specialist Credential Program**

**Application Deadlines**
Application forms and documents must be submitted as a package by the application deadline. Applications are accepted in Feb-April for the Fall semester and September-October for the Spring semester.

**When to Apply**
You may apply to the credential program upon completion or near completion of a baccalaureate degree.

**Application Procedures**
The application forms are available:
- [http://www.csustan.edu/Credentials/](http://www.csustan.edu/Credentials/)
- Turlock Campus, Credential Services (DBH 303)
Submit completed applications to Credential Services:
- Turlock Campus (DBH 303) or
- Stockton Campus, Acacia Court Building

Additional Information Available at:
• Credential Services - DBH 303 (209) 667-3534
• Program Coordinator – Dr. Granger Dinwiddie, DBH 328
  gdinwiddie@csustan.edu.

Frequently Asked Questions about the Preliminary Education Specialist Credential Program

What is the credential needed to be a special education teacher?
A teaching credential is a state license to teach in a public school setting. California law requires all teachers in the California public school system to hold a valid teaching credential. Credentials are most often obtained by completing a state-approved credential program at an accredited college or university. The three basic teaching credentials used in public schools are the Multiple Subject, Single Subject and Education Specialist credentials. To be a special education teacher an Education Specialist credential is required.

What special education credentials are offered at CSU, Stanislaus?
CSU, Stanislaus offers the Preliminary Education Specialist Credentials: Mild/Moderate Disabilities and Moderate Severe Disabilities. The specialty area Mild/Moderate Disabilities (M/M) includes specific learning disabilities; mild to moderate mental retardation; other health impairment; serious emotional disturbance; and authorizes service in grades K–12 and in classes organized primarily for adults through age 22. The specialty area Moderate/Severe Disabilities (M/S) includes autism; deaf-blindness; moderate to severe mental retardation; multiple disabilities; serious emotional disturbance; and authorizes service in grades K–12 and in classes organized primarily for adults through age 22.

How long is the program?
With the prerequisites included, the Special Education program totals 41 units. The average amount of time students take to complete the program is 2 years. However, the length of the program is ultimately determined by how you set your schedule, e.g., full-time or part-time. Keep in mind that some of the courses in the program are offered once a year, not every semester.

If I am a student in the Liberal Studies concentration in Exceptional Children and Youth, am I also a candidate in the Special Education Credential Program?
No. Courses in the concentration are required to earn your baccalaureate degree. Declaration of the concentration is not equivalent to admission to the Education Specialist Credential Program. There are 21 units in the concentration; there are 41 units in the credential program.

Must I complete all prerequisite requirements before I apply for admission to the program?
No. You can apply for admission in the same semester you enroll in the prerequisite course: (a) EDSE 4310 and (b) CDEV 3140 or CDEV 3240. However, you must complete the prerequisite courses with grades “B” or better before full admission is offered.

Do I need a Multiple Subject or Single Subject Credential before I get my special education credential?
No. The Preliminary Education Specialist credential is a basic credential. A single Subject or Multiple Subject Credential is not a prerequisite for the Preliminary Education Specialist Credential.

Do I have to apply to the program and the university?
Yes. You must complete applications to the Special Education Program and to the University. The application is available online at: http://www.csustan.edu/Credentials/, if you are currently admitted to the university, it is not necessary to reapply. However, if you are an undergraduate, you will need to submit a post-baccalaureate application once you have completed your undergraduate objective. If you are already a post-baccalaureate student you will need to notify the Graduate School that you are adding a credential objective.

Can I teach in at the elementary or secondary level with the Preliminary Education Specialist credential?
Yes. The Education Specialist Credential is a K-12 Credential. You are authorized to teach students in the areas authorized on your credential.

If I am interested in an internship, but I am not currently employed by a school district or non-public school. Am I eligible to apply for the University's Internship Credential Program?
No. Interns are employed as teachers in collaborating school districts while completing the requirements for the Preliminary Education Specialist Credential. To be eligible for a University Internship Credential, you must satisfy all of the following requirements: (a) baccalaureate degree; (b) candidate in good standing in the Education Specialist Credential program; (c) verified subject matter competency; and (d) offer of employment as a special education teacher from a school district or county office of education. Consult the Program Coordinator for specific procedures and requirements for the University Internship Credential through CSU Stanislaus.

Am I guaranteed a student teaching placement in the area I reside?
No. While all efforts will be made to place you as close as possible to your residence, the primary criterion in the determination of placement is the quality of experiences the placement will provide.

Can I pursue the Education Specialist Credential and the Multiple Subject or Single Subject Credential concurrently?
The faculty from the three credential programs are currently working on ways to efficiently obtain more than one credential. Check with the Special Education Coordinator if you wish to pursue the Education Specialist Credential and a Multiple or Single Subject Credential.
