Requirements for KU undergraduate students in teacher education who wish to add a
Provisional Endorsement in Special Education

Currently, there are three options available for special education endorsement at KU: High Incidence/Adaptive K-6 or 6-12, Low Incidence/Functional PK-12 and Early Childhood Unified B-K.

Typically students complete 2-3 extra SPED courses to become eligible for the provisional endorsement, which allows them to work as a special education teacher in their first teaching job. A provisional license is effective for two years, allowing time to take the remaining courses in the endorsement program while working full-time as a special education teacher. It’s possible to get a second and final 2-year provisional license, allowing up to 4 years to complete a program. Most teachers enroll in one class a semester while working. Additional graduate courses like PRE 715 may be required to complete the 30-36 hour master’s degree. If you are interested in working with special needs children, completing this coursework to qualify for the provisional license in Kansas may increase your job opportunities!

Complete program requirements can be found at the School of Education web site. “Semesters” refer to the semesters 1-5 in the education course sequence; 5 is the final Spring semester. 700 level courses will require a permission number from SPED department. Many of the classes are dual listed so you can enroll as an undergraduate until you enter the special education graduate program to complete your endorsement.

High Incidence K-6 or 6-12
(an add-on endorsement for working with students who have mild-moderate learning and behavior disabilities.)

- SPED 326: Teaching Exceptional Children and Youth in General Education, includes basic characteristics information and is already required in most KU teacher ed programs and imbedded in UEC B-3 coursework. (Semester 1 or 2)
- SPED 641/741: Methods & Assessment: Literacy Interventions for Struggling Learners & Students with High Incidence Disabilities (Semester 3 or 4; same content as 741 grad level course).
- SPED 675/775: Practicum: High Incidence, a supervised field experience typically taken at the same time as the regular education Internship (Semester 5), or as a summer course.

Functional/Low Incidence PK-12
(an add-on endorsement for working with students with significant intellectual disabilities including students with autism and concurrent cognitive, sensory and physical impairments.)

- SPED 326: Teaching Exceptional Children and Youth in General Education, includes basic characteristics information and is already required in most KU teacher ed programs and imbedded in UEC B-3 coursework. (Semester 1 or 2)
- SPED 642/742: Assessment and Methods of Teaching Students with Low-Incidence Disabilities in Inclusive Settings (Semester 2 or 4, Fall ONLY class)
- SPED 675/775: Practicum: Low Incidence, a supervised field experience typically taken at the same time as Internship (Semester 5). If you choose this option, you can split your Elementary Internship with the SPED practicum. You can also enroll in this class as a summer course.
* SPED 635/735 Introduction to Teaching Learners with Low-Incidence Disabilities in Inclusive Settings Is not required for a provisional endorsement but highly recommended, as it is a prerequisite to most methods classes. (Semester 2 or 4, Fall ONLY class)

There is also an option to add a provisional in Early Childhood Unified Birth-Kindergarten, but since this is unusual, please let us know if you need more details.

All undergraduate students interested in special education endorsements can seek addition information from the faculty advisor for Special Education programs:

Dr. Deb Griswold, dgriz@ku.edu 531 JRP, 785-864-0701

In addition, all SPED faculty members are happy to talk with you about their programs, career opportunities, and more. Email is usually the best way to contact faculty to make an appointment. Please let us know if you have questions!

- The SOE Advising Center Staff 3/11/2015