

Graduate Alternative Pathway/Special Education Certificate



Approx. program length:

13 months

Credits:

24

Cost per credit:

\$540

[Tuition Guarantee](#)

Format:

Online

Graduate Alternative Pathway/Special Education Certificate

Are you changing careers, using an emergency teaching certification or preparing for teaching licensure? Help students with disabilities thrive in education with our accelerated certificate program for a Graduate Alternative Pathway/Special Education Certificate. You'll focus on assessing how students with mild to moderate learning disabilities learn and on providing necessary support for various behavioral and learning disorders. Credits from this certificate can transfer toward a Master of Arts in Education/Special Education.

You'll learn how to:

- Design and implement effective instruction
- Apply professional ethics to teaching practices in special education
- Create and modify instructional and behavioral plans for a variety of learning needs
- Create innovative strategies and incorporate technology into the classroom

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Institutional accreditation

University of Phoenix is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), hlcommission.org. Since 1978, University of Phoenix has been continually accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and its predecessor.

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Total credits required:

24

Requirements and prerequisites

You'll need 24 credits to complete this Graduate Alternative Pathway/Special Education Certificate. Your course schedule may vary based on previous experience, training or transferable credits.

8 Core Courses

Here's where you'll pick up the bulk of your program-specific knowledge. By the time you finish these courses, you should have the confidence and skills needed in this field.

- MTE/503: ORIENTATION TO ALTERNATIVE PATHWAY CERTIFICATE
- APSE/559: Foundations of Special Education
- APSE/578: SPED -MODEL THEORIES AND INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES
- APSE/576: CHARACTERISTICS OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS
- SEI/504: STRUCTURED ENGLISH IMMERSION-ELEMENTARY
- APSE/584: LEARNING DISABILITIES AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT DISORDERS
- APSE/575: MATHEMATICS INSTRUCTION FOR SPED
- APSE/570: SPED CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT-READING/ELA

1 Clinical Practice/Student Teaching Course

During your clinical practice experience – one of the final steps to complete your degree – you'll complete a rigorous student teaching experience where you will apply your instruction and classroom management skills full time. Working under the supervision of a teacher and a University of Phoenix faculty advisor, you'll develop lesson plans, teach, work with diverse student populations and incorporate technology into the classroom.

COE Central

College of Education students will find many helpful resources on [COE Central](#). Program handbooks provide a wealth of information on topics such as professional expectations, clinical experiences, clinical practice, internships, edTPA and much more. Milestone roadmaps, technology and multimedia resources, and various toolkits are also available.

Schedule

Your academic counselor will help you schedule your classes for the Graduate Alternative Pathway/Special Education Certificate.

Program Purpose Statement

The Alternative Teaching Certificate in Special Education is a graduate-level certificate program intended to prepare students with no prior teaching experience for initial teacher licensure. The certificate program is designed for students who want to become special education teachers. Candidates for this certificate program have already earned a bachelor's degree. The certificate program includes a clinical component requiring field experiences and student teaching above and beyond program coursework. There may be additional qualifications and/or disqualifications applicable in order to work as a teacher with any local, state or federal entity. Requirements for licensure vary by state. [View your state's teacher licensure requirements.](#)

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The following programs – BSEd/E, BSEd/ECH, MAEd/TED-E, MAEd/TED-S, MAEd/SPE, CERT/AP-E, CERT/AP-S, and CERT/AP-SE – provide the academic preparation to sit for initial teacher certification exams in select states.

Educator/Principal licensure requirements vary by state. Candidates located in a state that does not provide a direct path to licensure will be required to obtain Arizona certification first, prior to seeking licensure in their home state as an out-of-state prepared teacher/principal candidate. Arizona certification requires candidates to pass all Arizona-specific licensure requirements, including any Arizona-specific exams (or home state equivalents if recognized by Arizona Department of Education.) After obtaining an Arizona teacher/principal certificate, candidates can then apply for licensure in their home state and may be required to complete additional testing and/or requirements at additional cost. Program requirements may change based upon your home state's agency licensure requirements. Please visit the teacher licensure page <https://www.phoenix.edu/colleges/college-of-education/teacher-licensure/state-requirements.html> or the principal licensure page <https://www.phoenix.edu/colleges/college-of-education/principal-licensure.html> for state specific requirements prior to reaching out to your state agency.

While widely available, not all programs are available in all locations or in both online and on-campus formats. Please check with a University Enrollment Representative.