

Graduate Initial Teacher Certificate/Special Education



Approx. program length:

15 months

Credits:

27

Cost per credit:

\$540

[Tuition Guarantee](#)

Format:

Online

Graduate Initial Teacher Certificate/Special Education

Find your calling in special education. The program is a first step to teacher licensure if you don't have teaching experience. The program combines academic theory and coursework with a clinical component made up of student teaching and field experiences. Credits from this certificate can apply toward a Master of Arts in Special Education.

Top skills learned in this program:

- Lesson Planning
- Educational Policies
- Learning Strategies
- Differentiated Instruction
- Teaching
- Professionalism
- Innovation

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.

Total credits required:

27

Requirements and prerequisites

You'll need 27 credits to complete the Graduate Initial Teacher Certificate/Elementary Education.

10 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.

- APES/503: Orientation to the Graduate Initial Teacher 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
- APE/536: Introduction to the Science of Reading
- APSE/570: SPED Curriculum and Assessment-Reading/ELA
- APES/545: Clinical Practice

1 Clinical Practice/Student Teaching Course

During your clinical practice experience — one of the final steps to complete your degree — you'll complete a 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 supervisor, you'll develop lesson plans, teach, work with diverse student populations and incorporate technology into the classroom.

Schedule

Attend class whenever it fits your life, day or night because our online classroom is available 24/7/365. Your academic counselor will help schedule your courses for a Graduate Initial Teacher Certificate/Special Education.

Plus, you'll find support from our dedicated education program specialists who work with you 1:1 during your 100 required hours of clinical experience (or more if required by your state) and a minimum of 12 weeks of clinical practice (or more if required by your state). Our education program specialists also help you navigate your [state licensure requirements](#) for teacher certification, and can help with questions along the way.

What you'll learn

When you earn your online Graduate Initial Teacher Certificate/Special Education you'll be equipped with a concrete set of skills you can apply on the job.

- Design and implement effective instruction and behavioral plans in the P-12 classroom to positively impact student learning
- Demonstrate professional dispositions and ethical conduct in special education
- Create innovative strategies and incorporate technology in a P-12 classroom setting

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.

Licensure Requirements

The Graduate Initial Teacher Certificate – Special Education prepares candidates for initial teacher licensure as a special education teacher. Program requirements may change based upon state agency licensure requirements and they can be found on our [teacher licensure page](#). Please check this list regularly prior to contacting your state agency for state-specific requirements.

Program Purpose Statement

The Graduate Initial Teacher Certificate-Special Education Certificate 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.

The following program educationally prepares students to apply for initial teacher certification in select states:

Graduate Certificate/Special Education (CERT/G-SPE)

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](#) or the [principal licensure page](#) for state specific requirements prior to reaching out to your state agency.