

Professional Studies Certificate: Special Education K-12 Licensure



SHENANDOAH[®]
UNIVERSITY
Division of Education & Leadership

An Online, Two and a Half-Year Certificate Program (39 credit hours)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Professional Studies Certificate program in Special Education serves students who desire Virginia Special Education Teacher Licensure. This includes the use of the newest instructional techniques, experiential learning and exposure to information related to classroom management, and instructional strategies for delivery to a K-12 school population. Students completing this program will meet the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) requirements for licensure and be eligible for endorsement in special education – general curriculum instruction. To complete the PSC, candidates must earn between 30-39 credits, depending upon prior completion of initial education foundational courses.

PROGRAM PREREQUISITES

- Bachelor's degree with a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

- Graduate Application with a \$30 non-refundable application fee
- Bachelor's Degree (minimum 3.0 GPA)
- Unofficial transcripts for initial admission from all institutions of higher education previously attended.
- Three letters of recommendation
- Essay addressing your background and educational goals (2-3 pages)
- Praxis Academic Core Tests (and appropriate substitutes) are no longer required as entrance exams for graduate teacher education programs at Shenandoah University. Instead, students will complete the RVE and Praxis 2 exams during the course of the program. If you have already taken the RVE or would like to take it prior to applying, you are encouraged to submit your scores with your application.
- Language Proficiency Requirement must be met. Submission of TOEFL, IELTS, PTE, or Duolingo English Test may be required. See our policy for full details: <https://www.su.edu/admissions/international-students>

ABOUT THE DIVISION OF EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP

Shenandoah University's Division of Education & Leadership (DOEL) prepares practitioner-leaders by offering programs of study that conform to the following principles: practicing in a spirit of collaboration; thoughtful examination of the foundations, current contexts, and future possibilities of the fields of study; encouraging proactive, problem-centered philosophies of educational and professional practice; producing graduates who will be knowledge-driven, competent decision-makers whose thinking is informed by reflective practice; and preparing caring, capable, and reflective teachers, administrators, human services, and public sector practitioners.

As part of efforts to make education more accessible for educators and leaders who serve our communities, all DOEL graduate programs are offered at a reduced tuition rate.

ADMISSION & APPLICATION

Start Term

Spring (January)
Summer (May)
Fall (August)

Admission Deadline

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis

Format/Location

Online synchronous

How to Apply

Begin the online application process by going to www.su.edu/sehdapp

Foreign Transcripts

International transcript evaluation by an accredited agency is an admission requirement. Approved services are listed at www.naces.org and <http://aice-eval.org/>.

Transfer Credits

Only grades of "A" or "B" are transferable

A maximum of nine graduate hours may be approved by the Director

Contact Us

Dr. Melissa Hartman
Assistant Professor of Education Studies
mhartman@su.edu

Office of Graduate Admissions
SUGradAdmissions@su.edu
call: 540-665-4581 | text: 540-546-6029

Office of Financial Aid
<https://www.su.edu/financial-aid/incoming-graduate-aid/finaid@su.edu> | call: 540-665-4538



**Dr. Melissa Hartman, Special Education
Program Director**

CURRICULUM

The degree requirement is 39 semester hours with a grade point average of 3.0 or better.

Course	Title	Credits
<i>Foundations*</i>		
PSYP 510	Human Growth & Learning	3
EDU 510	The Teaching Profession	3
RDG 523	Foundations of Literacy	3
<i>Methods</i>		
SED 537	Instructional Strategies in Mathematics for Students with Disabilities	3
SED 565	Foundations/Legal/Medical Aspects of SPED	3
SED 571	Characteristics of Students with Disabilities	3
SED 533	Language Acquisition & Reading Methods	3
SED 569	Collaborative & Consultative Strategies	3
SED 575	Transitions for Students with Disabilities	3
SED 567	SPED Instruction, Behavior Management and Assessment	3
SED 573	Curriculum, Instruction, & service Delivery	3
Passing scores on Praxis II and RVE		
<i>Supervised Teaching Experience</i>		
EDU 661	Internship in Student Teaching K-12	6
OR		
EDU 613	Management & Mentorship I (Fall Only)	3
EDU 614	Management & Mentorship II (Spring Only)	3
Program Total		Total 39

*If candidates have already completed the initial education foundations courses (or their equivalent), they only need to take the 24 credits of SED coursework, 6 credits supervised teaching experiences.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How much does the program cost?

Tuition through the Division of Education and Leadership is offered at the discounted rate of \$490 per credit hour for the [2025-2026 Academic Year](#).

Can I complete this program while working full time?

Yes, all of our programs in the Division of Education & Leadership can be completed on a part-time basis, and all classes are offered in the evenings to accommodate working professionals. Most graduate students enrolled in DOEL programs also work full time.

Are courses in person or online?

Classes are online synchronous with the possibility of some asynchronous weeks. They are one day a week for 2.5 hours. Synchronous classes are interactive and engaging and include group and individual work. The formats include lectures, interactive discussions, videos, and problem-solving activities. Some classes include practicum hours that students may apply in their current teaching positions. Students not currently teaching will be placed for practicum hours.