Graduate Certificate in Bilingual Special Education
Department of Teacher Preparation and Special Education

The Program

The graduate certificate program in bilingual special education trains educational personnel who are currently working in schools to understand and respond to the needs of students who are:

> culturally and linguistically diverse;
> second language learners who also have special needs; and
> special education students whose diversity impacts school success.

Graduates of the certificate program will be able to:

> Appropriately instruct and assess culturally and linguistically diverse students;
> Address the language and literacy needs of culturally and linguistically diverse and/or exceptional students;
> Design services that match the learning styles and academic needs of students;
> Serve students in inclusive settings;
> Work collaboratively with professional teams and families of these students;
> Identify and respond to legislative mandates, as well as current issues and trends, that impact service delivery to this unique population; and
> Provide administrative and supervisory leadership in the design and implementation of services for culturally and linguistically diverse and/or exceptional students.

Program of Study

The certificate program consists of five graduate level courses offered on campus or online through distance education (15 credits). Students may choose the option that best meets their professional development needs. Students may, with program approval, combine online and traditional coursework; they may also take all coursework online.

Under Option 1, students may complete the following five courses:

- SPED 266 The Development of Language and Literacy
- SPED 268 Development of Young Children with Disabilities
- SPED/TRED 272 Strategies for Inclusion: Addressing Needs of Special Populations
- SPED/TRED 276 Academic and Psychosocial Assessment of the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Student
- TRED 221 Developmental Reading: Emergent Literacy

Under Option 2, students may substitute one of the following courses for one of the five courses listed in Option 1:

- SPED 258 The Immigrant Experience: Diversity, Advocacy, and Education
- TRED 256 Linguistic Applications in English as a Second Language
Program Completion Requirements

In order to complete the graduate certificate program in bilingual special education, students will be expected to do the following:

> Complete the requirements for each of the five courses.
> Maintain a grade point average of 3.0 ("B") or above in coursework.
> Submit a portfolio for faculty approval that will include:
  — A self-assessment (reflection paper) about the program and professional growth obtained. Include plans for implementing strategies and instructional practices in your present setting.
  — Two sample lesson plans that incorporate adaptations for CLD students and includes appropriate assessment.
  — An annotated bibliography containing seven entries pertaining to each course taken.
  — Two sample IEPs for students who are enrolled in special education (real or hypothetical).
  — A "resource guidebook" for parents of CLD students which provides community supports, advocacy information and strategies for improving literacy in the home.
> Complete a supervised field-based teaching activity that the student will have videotaped, reviewed by a peer and then submit for faculty review. This tape will be supported by a written lesson plan and a post lesson reflection from both the student and peer reviewer. Students in the online program will work with the program faculty to arrange a satisfactory field experience. All field experience placements must be arranged with and approved by the program director.

Who Should Enroll?

Current educational personnel interested in learning more about meeting the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse students in their schools should enroll in the program. The coursework will be useful to administrators, general education teachers, special educators, ESL/bilingual teachers, counselors, paraprofessionals, and other specialists who serve culturally and linguistically diverse learners. Coursework could be used to meet specific competencies required for licensure.

Applications and Admissions

Applications to the graduate certificate program in bilingual special education are to include one letter of recommendation, a written statement of purpose and goals related to the field of bilingual special education, a current resume, and a transcript that indicates completion of a bachelor's degree in education or a related field. All applicants are required to interview with a program faculty member. Applicants in the Distance Education program may complete the interview online or by telephone if necessary.