

# SPECIAL EDUCATION— LEARNING DISABILITIES TEACHER CONSULTANT, ENDORSEMENT ELIGIBILITY PROGRAM

NJCU offers a 24-credit online Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant certificate program for New Jersey teachers who are already certified to teach Special Education or an allied field and who have had at least two years of successful teaching experience under a Standard Certificate. A copy of the Standard certificate must be submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies when applying for the LDTC endorsement. A Master's Degree in Special Education from an accredited university is required for admission to the LDTC endorsement eligibility program.

Completion of this rigorous non-degree program requires two 50-hour practicums, and the candidate's willingness to ensure enlistment of a volunteer who is a qualified LDTC mentor as well as his/her principal's permission in addition to satisfactory completion of coursework and field experiences. Candidates may choose to take courses in summer during Cluster I ONLY. Absolutely NO summer coursework is required or available in Clusters II and III.

Coursework that applies to this LDTC Certificate Only Program include Clusters II and III. Cluster I applies only to the Master's Program.

Clusters II and III begin ONLY in the fall. Candidates are expected to take 6 credits a semester and to remain with their cohort during the two years of Clusters II and III. There are absolutely no transfer credits permitted in this program and there are absolutely NO summer courses available.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION ARE:

- Official transcript(s) with 3.0 out of 4.0 or higher cumulative GPA
- Essay (250-500 words)
- Recommendation letter from principal, vice principal, or instructional supervisor
- A copy of standard certification(s)
- An original employment verification letter from a school official on school letterhead documenting at least two years of successful fulltime teaching experience and current employment as a teacher
- Interview, as necessary at discretion of application committee

Cluster I courses may be viewed under the Master's with LDTC Program. They may not be taken contiguously with Cluster II or Cluster III courses in fall and spring.

Applicants for the LDTC endorsement program must have completed an accredited master's program in Special Education or an allied field, and have achieved a minimum grade point average of 3.00 out of a possible 4.00. Applicants with degrees from out-of-state universities must have their credentials evaluated by the New Jersey Department of Education prior to admission, and have submitted an official copy of the State's evaluation along with their application to the Admissions Office.

## TRANSFER CREDITS

Candidates may apply for transfer credit of up to 9 semester hours toward meeting Cluster I requirements only: providing (1) they achieved a

B+ or better, (2) the course(s) was taken within seven years of acceptance into the LDTC program, and (3) the course(s) has remained substantively the same as the current course offering. Candidates wishing to transfer credits from universities or colleges other than NJCU should fill out the transfer of credits request form from Transfer Resource Center. See <https://www.njcu.edu/admissions-aid/transfer-student-admissions/transfer-resource-center/transfer-forms>. Once accepted to the program, candidates are required to take all remaining courses at NJCU.

## MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

The LDTC endorsement eligibility program begins with Cluster II each fall semester. Clusters II and III courses are taken as a cohort in fall and spring. Candidates in Clusters II and III are required to take two courses each semester. All of the courses are taught online. The Office of Special Education enrolls candidates in Cluster II and III courses close to the beginning of the fall and spring semesters. Once accepted to the Masters in Special Education with LDTC endorsement eligibility program, candidates must take all coursework through NJCU.

Each candidate must ensure documented enlistment of a volunteer who is a qualified LDTC mentor and secure his/her principal's permission to participate in the following practicum experiences in the final year of the program. Experiences include:

- Consulting with a qualified, certified district employed LDTC who volunteers to serve as a mentor and who is currently assigned to the school, preferably one who has a minimum of three years of experience
- Designing assessment plans based on referral issues
- Completing learning evaluations for students referred for child study, preferably students at different age/grade levels
- Using a variety of testing material, conduct observations and review records as required
- Scoring assessments and write reports in consultation with the LDTC mentor
- Contributing to and develop Individualized Education Plans by making educational recommendations to remediate diagnosed learning difficulties
- Consulting with administrators, teachers, child study team and parents; participate in planning and child study team meetings; interpret the results of evaluations and remediation plans to other professionals and parents
- Utilizing trial teaching and other strategies to address the learning needs of students demonstrating learning differences and difficulties

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Cluster I Courses</b> <sup>1</sup>		
SPEC 600	Introduction to Learning Disabilities	3
SPEC 605	Introduction to Educational and Psychologically Exceptional Children	3
SPEC 606	Lifespan Assessment in the Care and Education of the Handicapped	3
SPEC 640	Behavior Disorders in Children	3
SPEC 675	Corrective Techniques for Teaching the Exceptional Children	3
<b>Cluster II: LDTC Core Requirements</b> <sup>2</sup>		<b>12</b>
SPEC 670	Remediation of Learning Disabilities	3
SPEC 672	Physiological and Learning Factors in the Education of Children with Disabilities	3
SPEC 702	Cognition, Motivation, and Instructional Practice	3

SPEC 697	Diagnose Children with Learning Disabilities	3
<b>Cluster III: Clinical Core Requirements<sup>3</sup></b>		<b>12</b>
SPEC 673	Function on the Child Study Team	3
SPEC 674	Interpersonal and Consultation Techniques in Special Education	3
SPEC 698	Practicum in Learning Disabilities I: Diagnosis	3
SPEC 699	Practicum in Learning Disabilities II: Remediation	3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>39</b>

- <sup>1</sup> Cluster I courses may be taken summer, fall or spring as desired.
- <sup>2</sup> Cluster II must be taken two courses per semester with Departmental permission on completion of Cluster I coursework.
- <sup>3</sup> Cluster III must be taken two courses per semester with Departmental permission on completion of Cluster II coursework.

**COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS**

To maintain eligibility for continued enrollment in the Master of Arts with Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant endorsement eligibility program, candidates must maintain a minimum graduate cumulative grade point average of 3.0 out of 4.0 and must complete the sequence of courses as described above throughout their course of study at the University. Falling below a 3.0 cumulative GPA will result in removal from the endorsement eligibility program, with no recourse for readmission. Candidates must satisfactorily demonstrate consultative, diagnostic and instructional skills in field experiences.

Completion of this program requires demonstration of skill in field experiences including two 50 hour practicums. **Candidates are also required to enlist the support of a volunteer who is a qualified LDTC mentor willing to supervise his/her administration of testing/report writing and consultation, to ensure the permission of the principal and to satisfactorily compete all coursework.**

At the successful conclusion of the LDTC endorsement eligibility program, candidates may apply for the endorsement through the Administrator for Certification in the Center for Teacher Preparation and Partnerships in P203A. Candidates will submit a copy of their standard New Jersey Certificate, a letter from a school official on official school letterhead documenting at least 3 full years of full-time teaching experience.

**CLUSTER II**

(Courses may be taken only after completion of Cluster I and with department permission. No transfer credit permitted. No summer courses are required or available.)

Course	Title	Credits
<b>First Year</b>		
<b>Semester 1</b>		
SPEC 670	Remediation of Learning Disabilities	3
SPEC 672	Physiological and Learning Factors in the Education of Children with Disabilities	3
Credits		6

<b>Semester 2</b>		
SPEC 702	Cognition, Motivation, and Instructional Practice	3
SPEC 697	Diagnose Children with Learning Disabilities <sup>1</sup>	3
Credits		6
Total Credits		12

**CLUSTER III**

(Courses may be taken only after completion of Clusters I and II and with department permission. No transfer credit permitted. No summer courses are required or available)

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Second Year</b>		
<b>Semester 1</b>		
SPEC 673	Function on the Child Study Team	3
SPEC 698	Practicum in Learning Disabilities I: Diagnosis	3
Credits		6
<b>Semester 2</b>		
SPEC 674	Interpersonal and Consultation Techniques in Special Education	3
SPEC 699	Practicum in Learning Disabilities II: Remediation <sup>2</sup>	3
Credits		6
Total Credits		12

- <sup>1</sup> A grade of B or better is required in SPEC 697 in order to enroll in SPEC 698.
- <sup>2</sup> A grade of B or better is required in SPEC 698 in order to enroll in SPEC 699.