

# SPECIAL EDUCATION— LEARNING DISABILITIES TEACHER CONSULTANT, ENDORSEMENT PROGRAM, M.A.

NJCU offers a 39-credit Master of Arts degree in Special Education with Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant (LDTc) Program for New Jersey teachers who are already certified to teach special education or an allied field and who have had at least one year of teaching experience under a CEAS or Standard Certificate. A copy of the certificate must be submitted to Graduate Admissions when applying for the LDTc endorsement.

Completion requires field experiences and two practicums. The candidate is responsible for enlisting an experienced and certified LDTc who is willing to volunteer as a mentor, ensure the principal's permission to engage in field and practicum experiences at the school, and satisfactorily complete all course work and key assessments.

For Cluster I only, candidates may take courses year round including in summer. NO summer coursework is offered or available after completion of Cluster I. Coursework that applies to this M.A. in Special Education with LDTc Program includes Clusters I, II and III. Cluster I applies only to the Master's Program, not to the Certificate Only Program.

Cluster I is offered throughout the year but Clusters II and III are offered in the fall and spring. Once a candidate begins Cluster II, the first two courses begin in the fall. Six credits are required each semester for the remaining two years of program.

Up to nine (9) credits can be transferred into Cluster I. No transfer of credits is permitted for courses in Clusters II and III. NO summer courses are offered or available in Clusters II and III.

Upon completion of the program, candidates must have three years of teaching experience, one of which must be under a Standard instructional certificate to apply for the LDTc endorsement. Application should be made through the Center for Teacher Preparation and Partnerships in P203A or email [gradcert@njcu.edu](mailto:gradcert@njcu.edu).

## 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 employment verification letter from a school official on school letterhead documenting at least one year of full-time teaching experience and current employment as a teacher
- Interview, as necessary

Cluster I courses apply only to the Master's with LDTc. They cannot be taken contiguously with Cluster II or Cluster III courses.

Applicants for the M.A. in Special Education with LDTc Program must be certified to teach 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 Graduate Office.

## TRANSFER CREDITS

Candidates must apply for transfer credit of up to 9 semester hours toward Cluster I requirements, providing (1) they achieved a B or higher, (2) the course(s) were taken within seven years of acceptance into the LDTc program, and (3) the course(s) has(have) remained substantively the same as the current course offering at NJCU. Candidates wishing to transfer credits within Cluster I ONLY should fill out the transfer of credits request form from the Transfer Resource Center. See <https://www.njcu.edu/admissions-aid/transfer-student-admissions/transfer-resource-center/transfer-forms>.

## MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

The LDTc endorsement program begins with Cluster II. Clusters II and III courses are taken as a cohort. Candidates in Clusters II and III are required to take two courses each semester. The Office of Special Education enrolls candidates in Cluster II and III courses. This program does not offer courses in the summer. Once accepted to the Masters in Special Education with LDTc endorsement program, candidates must take all coursework at NJCU.

# Each candidate 1) must enlist an experienced and certified LDTc who is willing to volunteer as a mentor and confirm satisfactory completion of all key assessments 2) must submit principal's permission to participate in field and practicum experiences at his/her school.

Field/practicum experiences include:

- # Designing assessment plans based on referral issues
- # Completing evaluations for students referred for child study, preferably students at different age/grade levels
- # Using a variety of testing materials, conducting observations and reviewing records
- # Scoring assessments and writing reports in consultation with the LDTc mentor
- # Contributing to Individualized Education Plans by making educational recommendations to remediate diagnosed learning, behavioral, and functional difficulties
- # Consulting with administrators, teachers, child study team and parents; participating in planning and child study team meetings; interpreting the results of evaluations and remediation plans to other professionals and parents
- # Utilizing trial teaching and other strategies to address the learning, behavioral and functional needs of students demonstrating learning differences and difficulties

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Cluster II: LDTC Core Requirements <sup>1</sup></b>		<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>2</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 II must be taken two courses per semester with Departmental permission on completion of Cluster I coursework.

<sup>2</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.

Candidates are required to take all courses in Clusters II and III at NJCU.

This program does not offer summer courses.

**CLUSTER I**

Course	Title	Credits
<b>First Year</b>		
<b>Semester 1</b>		
SPEC 605	Introduction to Education and Psychology of Exceptional Children and Youth	3
SPEC 600	Introduction to Learning Disabilities	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>Semester 2</b>		
SPEC 606	Lifespan Assessment in the Care and Education of the Handicapped	3
SPEC 640	Emotional and Behavior Disorders in Children and Youth	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>Summer 1</b>		
SPEC 675	Corrective Techniques for Teaching the Exceptional Student	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>15</b>

**CLUSTER II**

(No transfer credit permitted; No summer courses are required or available.)

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

**CLUSTER III**

(No transfer credit permitted; No summer courses are required or available)

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

SPEC 699	Practicum in Learning Disabilities II: Remediation	3
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	<b>Credits</b>	<b>6</b>
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	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>12</b>

<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.