Special Education

Professional Studies Building, Room 350
201-200-3023
http://www.njcu.edu/department/special-education

The major aim of graduate studies in Special Education at New Jersey City University is to prepare qualified and competent educators capable of meeting the instructional needs of children with physical, communicative, cognitive, behavioral, and specific learning disabilities. New Jersey City University has an urban mission and the Department of Special Education addresses the needs of the child with disabilities in the multiethnic, multicultural, urban context. This comprehensive approach to the special needs child, preschool through high school, prepares our students for the continuum of Special Education settings.

Degree and Endorsement Eligibility Programs

For students holding an acceptable baccalaureate degree, the program opportunities for training in the teaching of children with disabilities shown below are available.

Matriculation into a degree program is expected on or before 12 credits have been completed and is contingent on application to the Office of Graduate Studies. Acceptance to the Endorsement Eligibility Program for Teacher of Students with Disabilities (TOSD) is required on or before 12 credits have been completed and is contingent on application to the Office of Graduate Studies.

Students who have completed requirements for the Endorsement Eligibility Program for TOSD, including providing a copy of their New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing (CEAS) or (NJDOE) Standard Certificate in an instructional area of general education, may apply for the TOSD endorsement through the Administrator for Certification in the Center for Teacher Preparation and Partnerships in P 203A. The e-mail address for the Certification Office in the Center is cttpcert@njcu.edu.

Students who have completed requirements for the M.A.T. in Special Education Program, and who have sent a copy of their New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing or New Jersey Standard Certificate in an instructional area of general education to the Graduate Office, must apply for graduation through the Office of Graduate Studies.

Students who have completed requirements for the M.A.T. in Special Education Program, and who have sent a copy of their New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing or New Jersey Standard Certificate in an instructional area of general education to the Graduate Office, must apply for graduation through the Office of Graduate Studies in accordance with procedures listed elsewhere in this catalog.

A copy of an NJDOE CEAS or Standard Certificate in an instructional area of general education is required before completion of the Endorsement Eligibility Program for TOSD and, also, before completion of the M.A.T. in Special Education Degree Program. (The M.A.T. in Special Education program includes the Certification Eligibility coursework for TOSD.) One copy of the candidate's CEAS or Standard certificate must be submitted to the Administrator for Certification in the Center for Teacher Preparation and Partnerships when applying for the TOSD endorsement and, another, to the Office of the Registrar when applying for graduation clearance.

Master of Arts in Special Education

This is a 33-credit advanced master's degree program for students holding a NJDOE Teacher of the Handicapped or Teacher of Students with Disabilities CEAS or Standard Certification.

Master of Arts in Teaching Special Education

The M.A.T. in Teaching Special Education is a 33-credit degree program, which includes the 21 credits required for TOSD certification eligibility. The M.A.T. in Special Education degree requires a Certificate of Eligibility (CE) in an instructional area of general education for admission. A copy of a CEAS or Standard Certificate in an NJDOE instructional area of general education is required on completion of the Certificate Eligibility and/or M.A.T. in Special Education academic requirements.

New Pathways to Teaching in New Jersey (NPTNJ) Combined with the Master of Arts in Teaching Special Education

Information about the NPTNJ program and continuing graduate studies towards the M.A.T. in Special Education (to include TOSD endorsement eligibility) can be found online at http://www.njcu.edu/admissions/new-pathways-teaching-nj-nptnj.

Master of Arts in Special Education with Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant Endorsement Eligibility

(39 credits)

This 39-credit graduate program is for teachers who are already certified to teach Special Education in New Jersey, or an allied field, and have had at least one year of successful teaching experience under a NJDOE Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing (CEAS) or NJDOE Standard Certificate. A copy of the Standard certificate must be submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies when applying for the LDTC endorsement. (See complete requirements below.)

NOTE: Entry to the Program is competitive. Completion of the program requires field experiences, two 50-hour practicums, and satisfactory completion of key assessments.

Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant Endorsement Eligibility Program

This 24-credit LDTC non degree endorsement eligibility program (Clusters II and III) is for teachers who are already certified to teach Special Education or an allied field in New Jersey and 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 or an allied field from an accredited university is required. (See complete requirements below.)

NOTE: Entry to the Program is competitive. Completion of this non-degree program requires field experiences, two 50-hour practicums and satisfactory completion of key assessments.

Carol Fleres, Co-Chairperson (cfleres@njcu.edu)
Professor of Special Education

Contact Information:

Office of Professional Development and Summer Sessions
City College of New York
2990 Broadway, Box 90
New York, NY 10027
212-650-6147
ProfessionalStudies@ccny.cuny.edu

Office of Graduate Studies
City College of New York
138 Thompson Street
New York, NY 10012
212-650-6901
GradSchool@ccny.cuny.edu

Office of Continuing Education
City College of New York
CUNY Professional Development Center
2990 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
212-650-6901
ceinfo@ccny.cuny.edu

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212-650-6901
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Special Education

Special Education (SPEC)

SPEC 504 Introduction to Manual Communications (3 Credits)
This course is intended to orient the prospective special education teacher to an introduction to manual communication. The student is expected to achieve an understanding of the rationale for considering manual communication techniques for hearing impaired individuals and other handicapped individuals. The course explores the use of auditory training, speech reading and a variety of manual communication procedures. A rudimentary proficiency in the skill of communicating manually is a prime goal of this course.

SPEC 505 Working with Families of Children with Disabilities (3 Credits)
This course covers the values, traditions, and experiences of families from variety of racial and socioeconomic groups. This course also considers issues such as how cultural/racial differences can be surmounted and replaced by effective special educator and parent communication. Using an ecological focus, special educators learn how to more effectively intervene with parents and to provide them with the skills to better manage their children in the home and community setting.

SPEC 506 Multicultural Education for Special Education (3 Credits)
This course is designed to familiarize students with the issues that impact on special education in an urban milieu. It offers a discussion on ethnic and socioeconomic issues which impact on a child and his or her family's ability to function adequately in an urban educational environment. Issues such as assessment and instruction, which are contextually and communicatively appropriate in a multi-ethnic environment, are central to the course.

SPEC 508 Helping Exceptional Children and Youth in the Regular Classroom (3 Credits)
This course offers a discussion of the identification of children with special problems, emphasizing the mainstream and inclusive educational setting. Use of all pupil-personnel services for the support of the exceptional child in regular classrooms is advocated. Special methods and materials used by teachers in regular classroom settings are explored.

UG Pre-Requisite(s): 3.00 CGPA, and Passing Scores on the Praxis Tests (Core Academic Skills in Reading, Writing and Mathematics)

SPEC 531 Introduction to Early Childhood and Special Education in Multiple Setting (3 Credits)
This course is about inclusion in the lives of young children in multicultural settings and the implications for teachers. Teacher candidates learn the laws that relate to young children classified as disabled or at-risk for developmental delays. Different types of inclusive early childhood programs are presented and examined. Developmental disabilities, sensory impairments, physical disabilities and health problems are studied.

SPEC 600 Introduction to Learning Disabilities (3 Credits)
This course offers a general introduction to the field of learning disabilities, stressing theories of nature and causes in a historical perspective. The variety of behavioral, cognitive, and neurological indicators of the disorder is presented, and an overview of intervention approaches is discussed.
SPEC 601 Assistive Technology in Special Education (3 Credits)
Special educators learn how to best meet the unique needs of culturally and/or linguistically diverse students. Topics to be explored include: diverse cultural backgrounds; the process of second language acquisition; methodology for teaching culturally and/or linguistically diverse students; materials selection; alternate assessment measures for culturally and linguistically diverse students; and working with families in the educational process.

SPEC 605 Introduction to Educational and Psychologically Exceptional Children (3 Credits)
This course, focusing on the nature and causes of disabilities, gives the student an overview of the needs of exceptional children. It emphasizes the identification of individuals with disabilities including hearing loss, visual problems, speech disorders, emotional-social disorders, mental retardation, learning disabilities, and giftedness. Multicultural and bilingual issues as these relate to special education are discussed. This course serves as an introduction to the field of special education.

SPEC 606 Lifespan Assessment in the Care and Education of the Handicapped (3 Credits)
This course trains students in the principles of educational and psychological testing for handicapped children and adults. Opportunities for practice in the administration, scoring, and evaluation of tests are provided. Emphasis is on the interpretation of psychological and educational tests and the implementation of their findings in the education of individuals with disabilities.

SPEC 607 Counseling, Vocational Guidance, and Rehabilitation Services for the Handicapped (3 Credits)
This course meets the needs of teachers of the handicapped in the field of counseling and guidance. Attention is directed toward the development of skills and the acquisition of knowledge necessary for effective vocational-educational counseling and the rehabilitation of the physically, mentally, and emotionally handicapped. Emphasis is placed on the development of broad understanding of human behavior, together with skill in the techniques of vocational appraisal and counseling. Teachers gain a thorough knowledge of available resources at the state and local levels and the development of a philosophy for proper use of these resources in facilitating the vocational rehabilitation of the handicapped.

SPEC 608 Fieldwork Exp. Multc. Se Setting (3 Credits)
SPEC 609 Nature and Needs of the Multiply Handicapped (3 Credits)
This course is designed for teachers of the child with multiple handicaps. Etiology, care, education, social and emotional implications of conditions involving cerebral palsy, mental retardation, deaf-blind, seizure disorders, orthopedic, and other health problems studied and discussed.

SPEC 613 Summer Institute Effective Transition Practices (3 Credits)
SPEC 614 Effective Transition for Students with Disabilities (3 Credits)
This course requires students to develop effective Individual Education Plans (IEPs) in accordance with the student’s interests, preferences, strengths, and abilities. Students will also visit three adult agencies that provide service to individuals with disabilities. Students are expected to observe, interview, and reflect on their experiences.

SPEC 616 Teaching High-Functioning Children and Youth with Autism Spectrum (3 Credits)
In this course, participants will be introduced to academic and social challenges of high-functioning children and youth with autism. Students will become familiar with key features of this population, such as language, social interaction, motor issues, restricted interests, and emotional vulnerability. Specific interventions will be introduced. 
Pre-Requisite(s): SPEC 605

SPEC 619 Nature & Needs of Multi Handicapped (3 Credits)
SPEC 620 Early Childhood Special Education Curriculum and Program Development 1 (3 Credits)
This course focuses on developmentally appropriate curriculum that provides for all areas of child development: physical, emotional, social and cognitive, through an integrated approach. The development of appropriate curriculum and instruction including technology, inclusive practices, and work with families especially those that are culturally and linguistically diverse is emphasized.

SPEC 621 Symbolic Systems Including Strategies Alleviating Impact of Disabilities on Linguistic Processes (3 Credits)
This course involves study of the development of meaningful representation in young children, including visual and alphabetic literacy. Written and numeric symbols. The emergent use and understanding of literacy is studied. Teacher candidates will examine materials and methods appropriate for promoting and assessing symbol development in young children.

SPEC 627 Special Education Internship (5 Credits)
Student teaching for special educators is a full-semester supervised teaching experience in public or private school settings and designed as the culmination of the preparation for teaching. The graduate student is expected engage in responsible teaching activities under the supervision of a cooperating teacher and a University supervisor. The experience begins with observation and participation and gradually incorporates expanded teaching responsibilities until full-time teaching is achieved.

SPEC 628 Special Education Internship Seminar (1 Credit)
Students attend this weekly seminar to share, analyze, and evaluate their student teaching experiences. They help find solutions to problems faced by themselves and others.

SPEC 629 Teaching the Children with Autism (3 Credits)
This course studies the changing views of autism, e.g., linking educators and parents in a partnership to educate autistic children. This course provides a practical guide for professionals, particularly teachers, in understanding the unique nature of autism as a developmental disability. Suggested approaches to teaching children with autism and/or pervasive developmental disorder is the principal focus of the course.

SPEC 630 Psychology of Mental Retardation (3 Credits)
This course introduces the student to the field of mental retardation. The nature of mental retardation, historical approaches, and sociological and psychological theory in mental retardation are emphasized. Students develop an understanding of the various approaches to intervention and design lesson plans that focus on teaching individuals with disabilities.

SPEC 631 Procedures in Teaching the Moderately and Severely Retarded (3 Credits)
This course focuses upon the characteristic curriculum needs of educable mentally retarded children, placing emphasis upon methods which meet the children's learning problems, personality development, and social adjustment. Opportunity is given for students to observe class procedures with mentally retarded children and to develop lesson plans and unit plans.
SPEC 632 Seminar In Mental Retardation (3 Credits)
Studies of current and new theories and research with regard to individuals with mental retardation in society and institutions are explored. Attitudes and beliefs regarding mental retardation are discussed. Students engage in qualitative research in mental retardation through field observations and structured interviews.

SPEC 634 Teaching the Learning Disabled Adolescent (3 Credits)
This course offers a concise overview of the field of learning disabilities and more specifically addresses itself to the educational, personal, and social needs of secondary level learning disabled pupils. Placing the emphasis in teaching on maximizing the use of the skills and abilities adolescents demonstrate rather than emphasizing the remediation of skills that normally are mastered in the elementary school is stressed.

SPEC 640 Behavior Disorders in Children (3 Credits)
The focus of this course is on the education of children with emotional and social maladjustment’s. It provides the theoretical and experiential background necessary to plan effective interventions in school settings. Consideration is given to the major approaches and practices in current use for meeting the needs of young and school-aged children with behavioral disorders.

SPEC 641 Disturbed, Disturbing, and Disruptive Adolescents (3 Credits)
This course offers a consideration children and youth with social and/or emotional handicaps in the special setting. Identification, treatment, and educational planning for behaviorally disordered and/or delinquent children and youth are discussed. Attention is given to the emotionally disturbed child in regular class setting. Opportunities are provided for observation of such children in learning situations.

SPEC 646 Administration of Special Education (3 Credits)
In this course, language and speech development, disorders, ways teachers can help students improve these skills, and a variety of other topics concerning language and speech skills will be discussed. Suggestions will be given concerning how teachers can help improve the communication environment of students throughout the early childhood years.

SPEC 651 Advanced Procedures Teaching Perceptual Impaired & Neurological Impaired (3 Credits)
This course focuses on advanced techniques and procedures for teaching the neurologically and/or perceptually impaired child. An analysis of teaching procedures is undertaken to suggest optimal ways of presenting learning tasks to children with minimal cerebral dysfunction. Meeting the needs of the child, physically, socially, emotionally, and intellectually are a prime objective of procedures reviewed. The student undertakes a thorough understanding etiology, associated conditions of impairment, procedures for evaluating disabilities, and teaching procedures to enhance learning.

SPEC 654 Introduction to Early Childhood Special Education (3 Credits)
In this course students examine the history, philosophy, legal perspectives, and research that underlie early childhood special education. As an introductory course, students become familiar with terminology, current trends, and issues related to the field. Students acquire knowledge of how young children differ in their development and as individual children. Students build on their knowledge of cultural and linguistic diversity and methods of assisting families with child development concerns.

SPEC 656 Curriculum Planning for Young Children with Disabilities (3 Credits)
No course description available at time of print.

SPEC 660 Medical, Emotional and Social Implications of the Visually Handicapped (3 Credits)
This course offers a study of the visually handicapped. Medical aspects with their concomitant social and emotional implications are explored. Study is given to physiology of the eye, etiology, treatment, and prognosis of eye disorders.

SPEC 662 Advanced Procedures Teaching Visually Handicapped (3 Credits)

SPEC 663 Interdisciplinary Assessmt of Children and Family (3 Credits)
The knowledge of an assessment system is an important knowledge base of early childhood/special education educators. Partnerships, cultural diversity, appropriate early intervention assessment, and linking curriculum to assessment practices are a few of the important aspects of assessment. Thorough knowledge of child development, knowledge of formal and informal assessment variables, consultations with parents, as well as portfolio and authentic assessment are required competencies for the professional early childhood/special education educator. Early childhood assessment decisions impact infants, young children, and their families for life.

SPEC 666 Field Experience & Seminar in Muticultural Early Childhood Settings (3 Credits)
Students visit a variety of early childhood special education settings serving young children with special needs and their families. Students work with various educators and specialists in intervention and inclusion programs. This course combines field experiences in early childhood special education settings with a seminar approach relating theory and research to practice.

SPEC 669 Development Communication Skills Atypical Children (3 Credits)

SPEC 670 Remediation of Learning Disabilities (3 Credits)
This course familiarizes candidates with a wide range of remediation approaches in all areas of academics: reading, written language, and mathematics. This course also assists candidates in developing skills, which allow them to choose the appropriate strategies or interventions for specific academic problems.

SPEC 671 Therapeutic Interventions for the Learning Disabled Child (3 Credits)
This course focuses on issues of self-esteem and social skills of individuals with disabilities. It familiarizes the student with definitions and theories of self-esteem and social skills development, and discusses the impact of learning difficulties on social skill development. Methods of assessing social skills and interventions designed to ameliorate social skill deficits are major aspects of this course.
SPEC 672 Physiological and Learning Factors in the Education of Children with Disabilities (3 Credits)
The relationship of neurological and physiological growth to psychological learning factors pertaining to the education of individuals with disabilities is presented. An understanding of the relationship of mind to brain, and the biological parameters, which may dictate a student's performance in the classroom, are integral aspects of this course. Pediatric and neurological examinations, the relevance of medical data to learning disorders and controversies, attention deficits, and other factors complicating classroom performance are presented.

SPEC 673 Function on the Child Study Team (3 Credits)
This course focuses on the members of the child study team and their roles as members of the team. Review of special education laws pertaining to the positions, school psychologist, school social worker, and learning disabilities teacher-consultant is a central aspect of this course. Emphasis is on a collaborative approach among professionals functioning as a team.

SPEC 674 Interpersonal and Consultation Techniques in Special Education (3 Credits)
This course serves the training needs of special educators who must function as resource persons to the larger school community. It develops in learning disability specialists, resource teachers, and other special education personnel, the communication skills necessary to advise and consult effectively regarding learning and behavioral problems. Through a didactic-experiential approach, the course considers the consultant role itself in the modern school. Problems of communication within a complex social structure, the nature of evaluative information and its communication, translating prescriptive programming and behavior management data into effective therapeutic intervention, modes of intervention, group process in consultation, communication with home community and other disciplines provide the focus for this course.

SPEC 675 Corrective Techniques for Teaching the Exceptional Children (3 Credits)
This course emphasizes analysis of educational tasks and preparation of instructional objectives and instructional sequences as they are related to the school curriculum for children with disabilities. Lesson planning, task analysis, and unit planning are discussed. Preparation of remedial materials and specialized techniques for correction of learning difficulties are included.

SPEC 678 Behavior Interventions for Children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (3 Credits)
In this course, participants are introduced to behavior management methods used in the field for children and youth with ASD. Students will analyze the research pertaining to interventions used in the field to assist these individuals in avoiding behavioral challenges that impact negatively on academic and social success.

Pre-Requisite(s): SPEC 605 and SPEC 640

SPEC 679 Classroom Management/Classroom Behavior and Positive Behavior Supports (3 Credits)
Classroom management includes organizational, behavioral, social and environmental parameters. Teacher candidates need to know how to design, structure, and manage daily routines including transition time. Teacher candidates relate child development theories to young children with disabilities. Teacher candidates learn how to define target behaviors and teach replacement behaviors. Ways that technology, including assistive technology, can assist with management of teaching and learning are stressed.

SPEC 680 Seminar Special Education: Trends/Issues/Research (3 Credits)
This course offers an appraisal of current problems, issues, and trends, as well as research in the broad area of special education and how these relate to the training and teaching of the exceptional child. Intensive study is given to major developments in the field of special education.

SPEC 681 Teaching Social-Communication Skills to Children and Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) (3 Credits)
This course will provide teachers with a framework for applying knowledge of current theoretical perspectives on autism to their ongoing treatment efforts to promote social-communication abilities in children and youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Application of this knowledge base to educational practice will be emphasized.

Pre-Requisite(s): SPEC 605 and SPEC 669

SPEC 686 Scholarship of Teaching (3 Credits)
This research course is designed to enable special education teachers to pursue sustained inquiry into their own teaching practices and student learning. Teachers will develop and defend an action research proposal. This course is required in the Master of Arts in Special Education program.

Pre-Requisite(s): MATH 604 and LTED 646 and SPEC 603 and SPEC 610 and SPEC 680

SPEC 690 Field Experience in Special Education (3 Credits)
This course is a required course for the Master of Arts in Teaching Program in Special Education. This course includes 45 hours of field experience working with exceptional learners. Candidates who are already teaching may use their classroom for field experience. Others will work in schools with priority given to partnership districts. In addition, all candidates in the course are required to attend two seminars during the field experience.

SPEC 691 Research Seminar in Special Education (3 Credits)
This is a basic course in research methodology for the behavioral sciences. It draws on the periodical literature in special education to develop students' skills as consumers of research in that field, and further provides training in the principles and practices of educational research to enable students to plan and carry out self-generated inquiries, and to prepare findings in thesis/project form. An academic base for the thesis/project terminal option is provided.

SPEC 692 Successful Collaboration and Inclusion in the Early Childhood Years/Universal Design (MAT) (3 Credits)
This course provides practical information for collaborating and co-teaching for early childhood and special educators. It includes planning and implementing developmentally appropriate experiences and materials for the classroom. Instructional approaches based on Universal Design for Learning are also emphasized as is the use of supportive instructional and assistive technology.

SPEC 693 Inclusion (3 Credits)
This course requires students to observe a variety of inclusive situations (i.e. fully inclusive schools, inclusion of students with moderate/severe disabilities, in-class support, consultative inclusion models). Students are expected to observe, interview, and reflect on their experiences. Course Pre-Requisites or Co-Re-Requisites: This is a Tier 3 course. Courses should be taken sequentially; therefore, all courses included in Tier 1 and Tier 2 should be taken prior to this course.

Pre-Requisite(s): TIER 1: SPEC 603, LTED 646, MATH 604 and TIER 2: SPEC 610, SPEC 614, SPEC 680.
SPEC 695 Independent Study in Special Education (1 Credit)
This course offers the student additional time to conduct research under supervision. It is possible for the student to complete a satisfactory thesis or expanded terminal project by taking this course.

SPEC 697 Diagnose Children with Learning Disabilities (3 Credits)
This course familiarizes the student with the causes, types, diagnosis, and remediation of children with learning disabilities. A major part of the course consists of demonstrations of tests appropriate for use in diagnosing learning disabilities in children from the educational standpoint. All areas of learning are studied with an emphasis on the causes of learning disabilities in children. Time is provided to study factors, which affect learning such as motivation, perception, interests, and concept development.

Pre-Requisite(s): Department Consent

SPEC 698 Practicum in Learning Disabilities I: Diagnosis (3 Credits)
This course allows students to implement and practice, with supervision, material related to the diagnosis and remediation of learning problems in children, adolescents, and adults. Opportunities to utilize educational testing material are provided. Students are expected to diagnose learning problems, write diagnostic reports, recommend remedial strategies, and implement those strategies in clinical and educational settings. Students interpret the results of evaluation and remediation to parents and other professionals. Students fulfill 75 hours of clock time.

SPEC 699 Practicum in Learning Disabilities II: Remediation (3 Credits)
This course allows the student to further practice and implement skills of diagnosis and remediation of learning problems in children and adolescents. Part of the focus is to use diagnostic information to implement and inform remediation of learning problems and to create individualized educational plans based on the information generated through diagnostic teaching.

SPEC 700 Adults with Learning Disabilities (3 Credits)
Learning Disabilities present lifelong challenges. Problems and issues of employment and education at the post-secondary level that face adults with learning disabilities are the focus of this course. Biographies of adults with learning disabilities are studied. Topics include characteristics of adults with learning disabilities as well as issues relating to assessment, employment, public policy, and the justice system. This course is designed to be a mid-program course in the Master’s degree program in Special Education with the Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant Certification. It is also designed to be a prerequisite for Practicum in Learning Disabilities III: Adults.

SPEC 702 Cognition, Motivation, and Instructional Practice (3 Credits)
Core developmental issues, assessment techniques and practical instructional strategies are studies in the context of various learning theories and theories of motivation. Candidates study appropriate and inappropriate uses of tests and test results, interpret assessment data, apply learning theories and determine appropriate instruction.

Pre-Requisite(s): SPEC 600, SPEC 605, SPEC 606, SPEC 640, SPEC 675 and Department Permission.