MASTER’S PROGRAMS in
DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION
GIFTED • GIFTED plus STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

CLICK FOR MORE ON...
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PROGRAMS OFFERED @ 2 LOCATIONS: SBU’S MAIN CAMPUS AND THE BUFFALO CENTER
What “Becoming Extraordinary” means to us

Inspired for more than 150 years by the Franciscan values of individual dignity, community inclusiveness, and service, St. Bonaventure University cultivates graduates who are confident and creative communicators; collaborative leaders and team members; and innovative problem solvers who are respectful of themselves, others, and the diverse world around them.

That’s why we say our students are becoming extraordinary.

Meaningful accreditation for School of Education

The School of Education at St. Bonaventure is nationally accredited by NCATE, the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education. This means that all of our undergraduate and graduate programs meet local, state, and professional standards in education. This accreditation offers maximum certification portability.

Why Differentiated Instruction at St. Bonaventure?

Inclusive education is a vital component of the social justice mission of St. Bonaventure University.

Our graduate programs provide a unique and innovative way for special and general education teachers to specialize in inclusive education — a critical area of expertise in today’s schools.

St. Bonaventure University’s vision and training in inclusive education encompasses the full range of students — the gifted as well as those with disabilities.

Admission requirements for both programs

- Official transcripts of all prior college work
- Valid or pending teaching certification that includes SWD/Special Education
- Two letters of recommendation
- Interview
- Writing sample (taken at time of interview)
Overview of SBU's Differentiated Instruction programs

The School of Education at St. Bonaventure University offers two MSED programs and one post-master’s certification program in Differentiated Instruction:

- **Differentiated Instruction** (30 hours)
- **Differentiated Instruction – Students with Disabilities** (33 hours)
- **Post-Master’s in Differentiated Instruction** (24 hours)

To learn more about the courses needed to fulfill the requirements in these three programs, click here.

**DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION**

This 30-credit degree program is designed for special education-certified teachers in all developmental areas who wish to meet the needs of students in increasingly diverse classrooms.

Extended research-based knowledge is provided in the areas of assessment, differentiated instructional strategies, behavioral strategies, collaborative teamwork, assistive technology, and other inclusive education issues. This degree has been designed in response to the need for teachers skilled in differentiated instruction strategies appropriate to the growing population of learners who are diverse in their learning and/or behavioral characteristics.

This MSED meets the criteria for, and may be used in partial fulfillment of, the requirements for professional (permanent) teacher certification in New York, and also meets the coursework requirement for the gifted education extension.

**DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION – SWD**

This 33-credit degree program was developed in response to the increasing demand for teachers who have the skills to meet the needs of students with a wide range of exceptionalities, which includes those students with significant learning, behavioral or communication difficulties as well as those who may be identified as gifted and/or talented.

The SWD program coursework is the same as for the Differentiated Instruction MSED, with one additional 3-credit class (student teaching experience) done under the supervision of a SWD certified mentor teacher.

SWD certification may be obtained in one of three developmental areas: Birth – grade 2, grades 1-6, or 7-12 generalist. Graduate students who hold an existing SWD certification may obtain an additional certification in a different developmental area. SWD students will also have met the coursework requirement for the gifted education extension. Students not holding an initial SWD/Special Education certification should apply to this program.

**POST-MASTER’S IN DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION**

This 24-credit program is designed for special and/or general education teachers who wish to specialize in differentiated instruction for inclusive classrooms. It’s intended for teachers who have a master’s degree and wish to develop their skills in differentiated instruction.

This program meets the coursework requirement for the gifted education certificate extension.
Q: How much are tuition and fees?
A: Graduate tuition for the 2013-2014 academic year is $690 per credit hour. However, other than a $5 fee for transcripts and a $100 fee for graduation, there are no additional required costs besides books and supplies. Graduate students have the option to purchase health insurance and SBU recreation center access. Housing and meal plans on the main campus are also available.

Q: Do I need to fill out the FAFSA?
A: Yes, you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid — the same process you may have experienced for undergraduate financial aid — to receive the Graduate Stafford Loan. Since you will be a graduate student, you will fill out the FAFSA as an independent student. To learn more about filing the FAFSA, click here.

Q: I finish my bachelor’s in December and start my graduate studies in January. I already have a FAFSA filed as a dependent student for this year. What should I do?
A: Your filing status will need to be adjusted for your graduate study. Please contact the SBU financial aid office about this at 716-375-2528.

Q: Are other forms of aid available?
A: Yes. Grants, scholarships and other loan or aid programs are available to help offset the cost of graduate school. Students intending to teach SWD should look into the federal TEACH Grant. For more aid information, click here.

Q: What campus and academic resources are available to graduate students?
A: From experienced advisers to full access to Friedsam Memorial Library, St. Bonaventure has a range of resources available to graduate students. The SBU and Hilbert bookstores carry all required textbooks, and our Technology Services department will assist students in setting up email accounts and access for online course offerings.