Post-Master’s in Differentiated Instruction  
School of Education

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

This program is designed for those teachers who wish to better meet the needs of all students in their classrooms. All coursework focuses on meeting the academic, socio-emotional, and communication needs of students who may be considered gifted/talented or who have disabilities. This program prepares teachers to personalize learning for all students through utilizing differentiated instruction, advanced collaboration, and assistive technologies.

The mission of this program is to provide teachers with high-level skills in meeting the needs of diverse learners through focusing on the conceptual framework of competence, experience, and social justice. Coursework in this program provides extensive field experience that allows students to transfer what they learn into practice in real-life settings. Students are also supported to complete original research projects in their areas of interest.

INFORMATION ABOUT CERTIFICATION

This program is an advanced program that prepares teachers to meet the needs of all students in their classrooms and prepares them for the Gifted Certification Extension (PreK-12) in New York state.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission to this degree program is based on a composite decision in review of the multiple sources of information listed below:

1. Official transcripts of all prior college work (3.0 GPA or higher out of 4.0 is the working standard)
2. Valid teaching certification
3. Two letters of recommendation
4. Master’s Degree in educational field
5. GRE or MAT score
6. Interview
7. Impromptu writing sample (taken at the time of interview)

* State law requires SBU to collect immunization records from students taking 6 or more credit hours in any semester.

LOCATIONS & FORMAT

This program may be completed in as little as 12 months. The program is offered in Olean with coursework that is a mix of face to face and hybrid classes. Students may also complete this program at the Buffalo Center at Hilbert College in a hybrid format.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS* (15 CREDITS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 599K</td>
<td>Experience in Diverse Environments</td>
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<tr>
<td>DIFF 503</td>
<td>Assessment of Students with Exceptionalities</td>
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<tr>
<td>DIFF 504</td>
<td>Communication and Collaboration Skills for Standards-based Differentiated Instruction</td>
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<tr>
<td>DIFF 510</td>
<td>Differentiated Instructional Strategies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIFF 511</td>
<td>Foundations of Inclusive Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIFF 598</td>
<td>Contemporary Field Research and Practicum in Standard-based Differentiated Instruction</td>
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*For course descriptions, go to www.sbu.edu/graduate and click on the Graduate Catalog link on the lower right.

FIELD-EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS

Consistent with our conceptual framework of Competence, Experience and Social Justice, students have the opportunity to gain experience by practicing their skills in P-12 classrooms. Each course in the program includes some field-based project. DIFF 510 also includes 15 hours working with students with disabilities, a state-mandated requirement. DIFF 598 includes an 85 hour internship working with students who could be considered gifted/talented.

Most working teachers CAN complete their field experience in their own classrooms/schools. For those who cannot, we will work with you to locate an appropriate placement.

EXIT CRITERIA

In order to successfully complete the program, a student will be evaluated on the following exit criteria:

1. A cumulative GPA of at least 3.0
2. Successful completion of the practicum
3. Submission of a portfolio showing professional growth and accomplishments