MSED in Differentiated Instruction — Special Education

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Dr. René Hauser Phone: 716-375-4078 Email: rhauser@sbu.edu

PURPOSE OF THE DEGREE

This degree 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 degree 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 meets the New York state master’s degree requirement for professional teacher certification. Students must have completed the requirements for initial teacher certification. Students may be accepted on provisional status if they are working toward meeting these requirements. Students who hold teacher certification from states other than New York should meet with the program director to discuss certification options.

Completion of this program meets the requirements for students with disabilities (special education) teacher certification in one of the following developmental levels: Birth-grade 2, grades 1-6, grades 7-12 generalist. Students who already hold a special education certification can get certified at an additional developmental level. Completion of this master’s program also meets the requirements for the Gifted Education extension (PreK-12) in New York state.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS*

Admission to this degree program is based on:
1. Official transcripts of all prior college work (3.00 GPA out of 4.00 is the working standard)
2. Valid (or pending) teaching certificate
3. Two letters of recommendation
4. Interview
5. Impromptu writing sample (taken at time of interview)
6. GRE or MAT score

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

LOCATIONS

This program may be completed in as little as 15 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.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS (33 CREDITS)

EDUC 500 Research Methods
EDUC 615 Data analysis for school improvement.
EDUC 599K Experience in Diverse Environments
DIFF 503 Assessment of Students with Exceptionalities
DIFF 504 Communication & Collaboration Skills for Standards-Based Inclusive Education
DIFF 506 Language, Literacy & Communication Skills for Students with Exceptionalities
DIFF 510 Differentiated Instructional Strategies
DIFF 511 Foundations of Inclusive Education
DIFF 512 Advanced Behavioral Strategies
DIFF 515 Assistive Technology
DIFF590B, C or G Extended Practicum for Graduate Education — Students with Disabilities
DIFF 598 Contemporary Field Research and Practicum in Standard-Based Differentiated Instruction

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. DIFF 590 requires 250 hours of advanced internship with students with disabilities.

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 be awarded the degree in Differentiated Instruction, a student will be evaluated on the following exit criteria:
1. A cumulative GPA of at least 3.0
2. Successful completion of the internships
3. Submission of a portfolio showing professional growth, accomplishments
4. Successful completion of the comprehensive examinations