SPECIAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATION

Candidates interested in earning a graduate degree with Pennsylvania Special Education certification must hold Pennsylvania instructional I or II certification and demonstrate at least three years of effective teaching at the K-6, Pre-K–4, 4–8, art, music, or secondary level, or as a reading specialist.

Application Process

To apply, fill out an application online at http://comenius.moravian.edu or stop by the Moravian College Comenius Center, located in Benigna Hall at Elizabeth Avenue and Monocacy Street, Main Street Campus. Official transcripts for all graduate and undergraduate coursework must be sent to the Comenius Center office. Advance standing may be awarded for appropriate coursework completed in an accredited graduate education program as long as those courses have been completed within seven years and are consistent with the objectives of Moravian’s Master of Education program.

Course Requirements

Special education certification candidates must complete the following course sequence with a cumulative Quality Point Average of at least 3.00 with no more than three letter grades less than B–.

**Teacher as Inquirer (EDUC 500)**
The purpose of this course is to introduce teachers to current issues in inquiry-based approaches to teaching and learning, with an emphasis on developing essential questions related to their own effectiveness in the classroom. The influence of action research on curricular and instructional change will be examined.

*(Three credits; Fall; Ziegenfuss)*

**Teacher as Researcher (EDUC 506)**
This course introduces participants to the methods and strategies of action research. The course will emphasize identifying and designing appropriate methods for collecting, organizing, displaying, analyzing, interpreting, and summarizing qualitative and quantitative information. Ethical considerations in the collection of data will be stressed. Prerequisite: EDUC 500 with B or higher.

*(Three credits; Spring; Shosh)*

**Differentiating Instruction (EDUC 610)**
This course will emphasize strategies of organizing learning opportunities of all students in today’s classrooms. Participants will develop real lessons and handouts that utilize various strategies of differentiation.

*(Three credits; Fall of Odd-Numbered Years; Modjadidi)*

**Special Education: Identification & Effective Intervention (EDUC 617)**
This course examines the reasons for over-representation of culturally and linguistically diverse students in special education programs and examines evidence-based practices to build on students’ strengths to ensure academic engagement and achievement. Effective strategies for data collection and analysis will be employed in an action research context.

*(Three credits; Fall of Even-Numbered Years; Modjadidi)*

**Effective Inclusionary Practices (EDUC 618)**
Major topics include a history of special services to students with disabilities, emerging trends and important legal issues related to students with special needs. The primary focus of the course, however, is the design and application of strategies for effectively teaching these students.

*(Three credits; Spring of Even-Numbered Years; Modjadidi)*

**Special Education Processes & Procedures (EDUC 623)**
Special Education Processes & Procedures will use the seminar format. The course will cover a through analysis of foundational aspects of special education services, legal issues, ethical and professional issues, instructional planning, inclusionary practices, collaborative practices, and current trends regarding special education services as they relate to students with disabilities, their families, general education, and the community. Emphasis will be placed on the role of the special education teacher in relationship to all topics discussed.

*(Three credits; Summer of Even-Numbered Years; Modjadidi)*

**Educating Students with Disabilities and Exceptionalities (EDUC 624)**
This course addresses the six interrelated elements of the standards-based system adopted by the Pennsylvania Department of Education: standards, curriculum, instruction, materials and resources for instruction, fair assessments, and appropriate interventions. Within this course, you will be expected to demonstrate
your knowledge of how to effectively adapt or universally design curriculum and instruction for students with disabilities and students who are gifted. This will be accomplished by articulating the present level of performance for such students and by applying the instructional and curricular concepts from course readings and in-class activities.

(Three credits; Fall of Even-Numbered Years; Hogan)

Comprehensive Literacy Practices for Grades Pre-K-4 (EDUC 626)

Teachers will actively explore current practice and investigate contemporary research on early literacy. Participants will share literature for the primary grades and examine a variety of topics, including word structure, phonics, guided reading, shared reading, big books, writing to share, the four block system, and classroom management.

(Three credits; Spring of Odd-Numbered Years; DesJardin)

Literacy Assessment and Evaluation (EDUC 676)

This course is designed to prepare teachers to select, administer, and interpret literacy assessment instruments in an informed and responsible way. Participants will explore a variety of formative and summative tools, including norm and criterion referenced tests, formal and informal inventories, portfolio based assessments, and anecdotal records. They will also learn to align instruction with PSSA testing data and examine how to develop individualized instructional plans for students with severe literacy-related learning difficulties. Finally, participants will explore strategies for communicating assessment data effectively to students, parents, and other school personnel.

(Three credits; Summer of Odd-Numbered Years; Conard)

Curriculum Development and Action Research (EDUC 700)

This course explores the relationships of learning theory and action research to curriculum design. Various models of curriculum development are explored, and strategies for curriculum design are studied, leading to the development of a research question for the M.Ed. thesis. Prerequisite: M.Ed. Degree candidacy with completion of 500-series and 600-series requirements with QPA of 3.0 or higher.

(Three credits; Spring; Grove)

Reflective Practice Seminar (EDUC 702)

This is a capstone course through which students will carefully examine the philosophical and empirical bases for reflective teaching and learning. Data for the action research thesis will be collected, coded, analyzed, and interpreted.

Prerequisite: EDUC 700 with B or higher.

(Three credits; Fall; Shosh)

Action Research Thesis (EDUC 704-705)

Candidates will work independently, under the guidance of a thesis advisor, to place action research data within the context of published studies and to report research findings in a final thesis. An oral defense of the thesis will be required. Prerequisite: EDUC 702 with B or higher.

(Three credits each; Spring; Shosh, Dilendik, Grove)