GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN LEADERSHIP IN SPECIAL AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Program Details

The Graduate Certificate in Leadership in Special and Inclusive Education is designed for passionate educators who want to ensure the success of students in special education programs through a leadership role. This certificate prepares you with critical knowledge in historical and current special education law and policy implementation, focusing on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), so you are equipped to administer special education programs in a variety of district- and building-level settings.

Whether you are an educator, administrator, principal, director, other school staff, a concerned family member or an advocate, this certificate program prepares you with an understanding of and the skills to manage the complex issues surrounding the education of at-risk students and those with identified disabilities.

PROGRAM BENEFITS

- Earn a graduate certificate from the #1 Special Education department (among public universities)¹
- Learn from world-renowned faculty who have set the standard in the practice of special education for over 50 years
- Conduct your course work anytime, anywhere through our innovative online platform, KU Connect
- Submit your application with no GRE requirement for admission into the program

Note: The Leadership in Special & Inclusive Education Graduate Certificate program does not lead to a teacher license or endorsement in the state of Kansas. Students seeking initial licensure or an endorsement to an existing license must review their individual state licensure requirements with the appropriate licensing or regulatory authorities prior to enrolling.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

- 4 courses taken in sequence
- 12 credits
- 8 weeks per course
- As few as 6 months to completion

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

In order to enroll in the online graduate certificate, a bachelor’s degree is required. To apply to the Graduate Certificate in Leadership in Special and Inclusive Education, your first step is completing the online application form. Prior to starting the form we recommend that you review our application checklist.

Our Admissions Advisors are here to help answer your questions regarding admission requirements and licensure. If you have questions, please email us at onlineinfo@ku.edu or call us toll-free at 855-639-7799.

International applicants must meet English language proficiency requirements.

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN LEADERSHIP IN SPECIAL AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Program Details

WHAT YOU’LL LEARN
At the University of Kansas, we recognize that special education is an evolving field with a complex history. This graduate certificate encompasses a big-picture view of special education policy and law, while giving you current best practices and methodologies for implementation. You will be equipped to advance the rights of all students, confront biases about special education and overcome the implementation challenges of special education policies. As a part of this program, you will learn about:

- Special education law and policy implementation and challenges
- History of the treatment of individuals with disabilities
- Procedural requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Core principles of IDEA, including appropriate education and least restrictive environment

The curriculum is focused on evidence-based practices and includes field experiences that will allow you to apply your learned skills and knowledge in a real-world environment.

FACULTY
The University of Kansas brings a rich academic tradition into the online environment. The KU School of Education is fully committed to KU’s mission of educating leaders, building healthy communities and making discoveries that change the world. Our special education faculty are at the leading edge of research and practice to improve the lives of children with special needs. They have:

- Served as leaders of and received recognition from key organizations like The Arc, the Council for Exceptional Children and the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- Authored dozens of books and over 1,000 academic articles that guide research and practice worldwide
- Directed tens of millions in federal grant dollars dedicated to the field of special education

AFTER GRADUATION
Most, if not all, of the public school administrative units in the U.S. have directors of special education. This graduate certificate program equips students to meet the challenges of being a special education administrator in a school setting, advocacy group or technical assistance center.

As a qualified leader in special and inclusive education, you’ll be able to make a difference in the lives of some of the over six million children participating in federally supported special education programs. By building skills toward understanding and managing the complex issues surrounding the education of at-risk students and those with identified disabilities, graduates are prepared to enact special education policies with integrity and effectiveness.