

**LEHMAN COLLEGE
OF THE
CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK**

**DEPARTMENT OF COUNSELING, LEADERSHIP, LITERACY & SPECIAL
EDUCATION**

CURRICULUM CHANGE

Name of Program and Degree Award: Advanced Certificate in Special Education – All Grades

Hegis Number: 0808.00

Program Code:

Effective Term: Spring 2026

1. Type of Change: Adding a new Advanced Certificate

2. From: N/A

3. Description:

Overview

The purpose of the 18-credit Advanced Certificate in Special Education – All Grades program is to prepare candidates who already hold an Initial or Professional New York State Teaching Certificate in teaching at the Early Childhood, Childhood, or Adolescent level, and to fulfill the New York State licensure requirements for certification as a special education teacher.

The program prepares teacher candidates to teach in inclusive P–12 settings as well as in self-contained special education settings such as District 75. The program emphasizes accommodating the needs of all learners and ensuring access to high-quality instruction in the general education curriculum through differentiation aligned with student's Individualized Education Plan.

The program prepares graduates for special education positions, as well as co-teaching opportunities, in urban schools and community-based organizations with culturally and linguistically diverse populations.

The Advanced Certificate in Special Education – All Grades program is committed to preparing teacher candidates who demonstrate understanding of students varied social-emotional, instructional, and linguistic needs, a willingness to collaborate within the school team and community, and a conviction that all children can learn. The program is also aligned with the School of Education's Lehman Urban Transformative Education conceptual framework, whose mission is to facilitate the development of competent, caring, and qualified educators who are well prepared for teaching in diverse urban settings.

Enrolled teacher candidates have two options for completing the program: Option One – Hybrid On-Campus Program or Option Two – Fully Online Program, which provides greater flexibility for candidates while maintaining the same rigorous academic standards as the hybrid/campus-based program. Both options of the Special Education Students with Disabilities- All Grades program can be completed in approximately three semesters.

Advanced Certificate in Special Education – All Grades

Admission Requirements

Note: Students admitted every semester.

1. A Master's degree in Early Childhood, Childhood or Adolescence Education from an accredited college or university
2. A minimum graduate grade point average of 3.0.
3. A valid provisional, initial, permanent, or professional certificate in either Early Childhood Education (Birth-2), Childhood Education (Grades 1-6) or a content area at grades 7-12 from an accredited teacher preparation program or a P-12 general education certification.

Advanced Certificate in Special Education – All Grades

Graduation Requirements

- Complete a minimum of 18 graduate credits of study in Special Education.
- A minimum GPA of 3.0 throughout the 18-credit concentration.
- Meet all state certification liberal arts and sciences requirements:
 - New York State certification requires specific credits in each of the following subjects: Social Studies, English, Math and Science.
- Take the New York State Teacher Certification Exams (NYSTCE)
 - For exams schedules, registration and other testing information please visit the NYSTCE at <http://www.nystce.nesinc.com/>
- Content Specialty Tests (CSTs)
 - The CSTs (except those for languages other than English) consist of multiple-choice questions and a written assignment. CSTs measure knowledge and skills in the content area of the candidate's field of certification.
 - Visit <http://www.nystce.nesinc.com/>. Refer to "Test Selection" for information about specific CST that you are required to take and pass.
- Complete the following mandated workshops
 - Child Abuse
 - School Violence
 - Autism (Only candidates who are applying for certification in Speech and Language Disabilities and Students with Disabilities)
 - Bullying and Discrimination Prevention and Intervention workshop

- All applicants must create a NYSED TEACH account to apply for certification. Visit the NYSED at <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/teach/> for more information.

Advanced Certificate in Special Education – All Grades

Clinical Requirements

Participation in supervised fieldwork in appropriate school settings is required. Students have the opportunity to apply theory to practice in diverse classrooms, while receiving feedback, support, and evaluation from faculty and school-based mentors. These supervised clinical experiences ensure candidates meet state requirements and are prepared for effective practice.

OPTION ONE: Hybrid On-Campus Program

Semester I (Fall): (6 credits)

EDS 791 – Learners with Disabilities (3)

EDS 792 - Curriculum and Instructional Practices for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students with Disabilities (3)

Semester II (Spring) (6 credits)

EDS 743 - Behavioral Assessment, Management, and Change (3)

EDS 794 - Practicum in Behavioral Assessment and Management of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Individuals with Disabilities (3)

Semester III (Fall): (6 credits)

EDS 741 - Psycho-educational Evaluation of Children with Learning Problems (3)

EDS 795 - Practicum in Assessment for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Individuals with Disabilities (3)

OPTION TWO: Online Program (Courses offered as asynchronous or synchronous via online instruction.)

Semester I (fall): (6 credits)

EDS 791 – Learners with Disabilities (3)

EDS 792 - Curriculum and Instructional Practices for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students with Disabilities (3)

Semester II (spring): (6 credits)

EDS 743 - Behavioral Assessment, Management, and Change (3)

EDS 794 - Practicum in Behavioral Assessment and Management of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Individuals with Disabilities (3)

Semester III (fall) (6 credits)

EDS 741 - Psycho-educational Evaluation of Children with Learning Problems (3)

EDS 795 - Practicum in Assessment for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Individuals with Disabilities (3)

4. Rationale:

- This new program adheres to New York State certification guidelines and is a state mandate as all programs must now include a P-12 certification program. The New York State Board of Regents voted to establish the Students with Disabilities (All Grades) certificate effective September 28, 2022. The new certificate permits individuals to teach students with disabilities in pre-Kindergarten through grade 12 in New York State public schools.
- Lehman's current Special Education Advanced Certificate programs will become obsolete as we are moving away from age-range certification. All students who are already in existing programs will be able to finish, but all new admits will be admitted into this inclusive program. This 18-credit program will be for applicants that currently hold an initial certification and are looking to become fully certified in Special Education.
- Option Two (online format) provides greater flexibility for candidates who hold full-time positions as teachers or paraprofessionals in P-12 schools. Our online candidates are expected to adhere to the same academic standards and requirements as our campus-based candidates. Option One and Option Two programs have the same course descriptions, credits and hour requirements, learning objectives, pre-requisites and all other curricular requirements. This consistency ensures that our online program meets the same rigorous academic standards as our on-campus one, with only the mode of delivery being different.

5. Date of departmental approval: November 13, 2025