**DID YOU KNOW?**

Almost 7 million students in the US are served under Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Approximately 13% of the population ages 6 – 17 is identified as having a disability (Dept. of Education, 2016).

In a typical classroom of 30 students there will be at least 4 students with disabilities.

The shortage of special education teachers in the United States continues to increase every year.

In the 2015-2016 school year, nearly 500 special education positions in the state of Kansas were filled by people not prepared for their position.

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**Mission of the College of Education**  
The College of Education is dedicated to its vision of preparing educators to be knowledgeable, ethical, caring decision makers through excellence in the:

- delivery of exemplary instruction to students at the undergraduate and graduate levels;
- production, interpretation, and dissemination of sound and useful research and scholarship;
- provision of leadership, collaboration, and service within the profession; and
- promotion, understanding, and celebration of diversity

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**Special Education**

**StepAhead Program**

Provisional Endorsement in Special Education while completing an undergraduate degree in *Secondary Education*
**WHO SHOULD BE INVOLVED?**

*Secondary Education* undergraduate students in the College of Education with an interest in Special Education.

**WHY IS SPECIAL EDUCATION SO IMPORTANT?**

Special education is instruction specially designed to meet the unique needs of a child whose disability affects his or her educational performance or ability to learn in a regular classroom.

Special education teachers are trained to use specialized teaching methods and programs to meet specific learning needs of students with disabilities.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROVISIONAL ENDORSEMENT:**

*Secondary Education* students who want to begin teaching special education before completing a full licensure program can follow this plan, completing the required special education coursework and student teaching with a Special Education Practicum (during the final semester with their content area student teaching).

Individuals successfully completing this option will be eligible for provisional endorsement in secondary adaptive special education *after* accepting a special education teaching position.

**WHAT CLASSES DO I TAKE?**

Classes leading to provisional endorsement in special education:

- **EDSP 711** (Fall, Spring, Summer *Online*)
  *Education of Exceptional Individuals*

- **EDSP 742** (Spring, Summer *Online*)
  *Interventions: Emotional and Behavior Disorders*

- **EDSP 743** (Fall, Spring *Online*)
  *Interventions: Academic Disabilities*

- **EDSP 745** (Summer *Online*)
  *The Consulting Process in Special Education*

*a* Note: EDSP 323 and EDSP 711 may be taken concurrently

*To request a dual student teaching placement in both secondary and special education the courses listed above must be completed prior to the student teaching semester.*

- **EDSP 785** (Fall, Spring)
  *Practicum in Special Education*

*b* Note: You must be enrolled for graduate credit.

**WHAT WILL MY PRACTICUM LOOK LIKE?**

As part of the StepAhead program you will complete a 3-credit hour practicum (EDSP 785) in conjunction with your Block 3 student teaching experience. You must enroll for graduate credit.

Your practicum placement will provide you opportunities to teach in both resource and inclusive special education settings.

**WHY CONSIDER A PROVISIONAL ENDORSEMENT IN SPECIAL EDUCATION?**

*You’re getting a “StepAhead” to a Master’s degree!*

*Allows you to work as a special education teacher while finishing a Special Education endorsement for the State of Kansas.*

*Better preparation for including students with special needs in your general education classroom.*

* A special education background increases your opportunities of getting a job!*

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*last modified on 12/2019*