

**KEENE STATE COLLEGE
2008-2009 ACADEMIC PROGRAM PROPOSAL FORM**

DATE OF SUBMISSION: 9/22/08

SPONSORING PROGRAM AND CHAIR:

Education Department, Dottie Bauer, Chair, 8-2864, dbauer@keene.edu

PROPOSAL SPONSOR:

Steve Bigaj, 8-2872, sbigaj@keene.edu

PROPOSED ACTION: Underline or bold face proposed changes.

Program addition

Change in requirements*

Program redesign

Program deletion

Other:

***Please note that changes pertaining to admission requirements for a major require approval of the Senate Academic Standards Committee.**

CURRENT PROGRAM:

- Special Education Option

39 credits

The Special Education Option is designed to support the professional development of educators by extending learning opportunities in the area of special education. In collaboration with Granite State College (GSC), individuals can complete initial or advanced certification in special education at GSC and utilize 18 to 24 GSC post-baccalaureate credits and current certification toward a M.Ed. in Special Education at KSC. This is articulated through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with GSC. Prospective students produce evidence of special education certification, post-baccalaureate credits from GSC, complete an application to Graduate Studies in Education, and follow additional requirements outlined in the MOU with Granite State College. Students who seek General Special Education certification at KSC should refer to the post-baccalaureate pro-gram or undergraduate program.

Candidates begin their graduate studies at KSC after completion of coursework at Granite State College, certification in special education, and acceptance in the Special Education Option. KSC students and advisors meet to project a timeline for program completion, discuss

options, and complete a program planning sheet. Students begin participation in the Option by registering for and completing the Demonstration of Professional Leadership coursework (12 credits). Students who complete less than 24 credits at GSC must complete KSC graduate elective credits before beginning the Demonstration of Professional Leadership coursework. Once students successfully complete these courses and in some cases additional electives, credit will be awarded via EDUC 612 Demonstrated Certification Competence.

Granite State College General Special Education Certification

Post-baccalaureate students from GSC who complete certification in General Special Education (K-12) may apply transfer credit toward a M.Ed. at KSC. The Granite State College General Special Education certification program is approved by the New Hampshire Department of Education. Individuals complete a minimum of 24 credits at Granite State College, including special education certification. Students complete the Demonstration of Professional Leadership coursework (12 credits) and then transfer the 24 credits to KSC.

Granite State College Advanced Special Education Certification

Post-baccalaureate students from GSC who complete at least one advanced-level certification in special education ("Emotionally Disturbed," "Learning Disabilities," and/or "Mental Retardation") may apply transfer credit toward a M.Ed. at KSC. The Granite State College advanced special education certification options are approved by the New Hampshire Department of Education. Individuals complete a minimum of 18 credits at Granite State College, including at least one advanced-level certification. Students transfer these credits to KSC and complete the Demonstration of Professional Leadership coursework (12 credits) for the M.Ed. For those who do not transfer 24 credits, additional KSC graduate-level elective coursework will be required.

Special Education Option Requirements

(36 credits)

- **Demonstration of Professional Leadership (Summer, Fall, Spring)**

12 credits

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- EDUC 670 Educational Research Foundations (Summer, 3 credits)
 - EDUC 675 Educational Research Design (Fall, 3 credits)
 - EDUC 680 Educational Research Capstone (Spring, 6 credits)
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- **Granite State College Post-Baccalaureate Credit Transfer**

18-24 credits

- EDUC 612 Demonstrated Certification Competence (18-24 credits)
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- **Keene State College Graduate Electives* (for students who transfer less than 24 credits at GSC)**
up to 6 credits
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- *For students who complete less than 24 credits from Granite State College, graduate elective credits must be taken at KSC. Students are encouraged to participate in Institutes and offerings in other KSC graduate programs that serve to enhance their understanding of serving students with disabilities.
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Note: After successful completion of the Demonstration of Professional Leadership coursework and KSC electives, students are awarded transfer credit via EDUC 612: Demonstrated

PROPOSED PROGRAM:

Master of Education: Special Education Option

4. Special Education Option

This option is designed for individuals who seek certification by the NH Department of Education in General Special Education (K-12) and a Master of Education degree. The M.Ed. Special Education Option is designed to support individuals to achieve special education certification at the initial level as well as enhance competence and extend learning beyond certification competencies in the area of special education. The option combines certification coursework with a professional leadership experience and culminates with the design and implementation of a school-based research project that showcases an individual student's area of expertise and leadership capacity in special education. The program begins in the summer and can be completed in one year (full-time) or two years (part-time). The certification aspects of this portfolio based program blend special education content knowledge courses with a yearlong internship experience. The internship may be conducted on-the-job (for students employed as a teacher in an appropriate special education setting) or in a field experience approved by the faculty coordinator(s) of this program. The certification component follows standards set forth by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), and the New Hampshire Department of Education. The KSC Conceptual Framework for Teacher Education Programs provides students with a frame of reference as they work through the program.

Faculty in the M.Ed. Special Education Option are dedicated to preparing special educators by partnering with local special education professionals in the larger KSC community. Guiding principles include assisting candidates to: (1) apply special education knowledge and skills so that the individuals with disabilities who they teach can develop academic, social, and transition skills to become meaningful and productive members of a community; (2) design instruction, assessment, and individualized programs with the student and family at the center of the process; (3) utilize expertise of special education stakeholders within and outside a school system in a collaborative framework; (4) celebrate diversity in the context of supporting individuals with disabilities; (5) act as advocates for individuals with disabilities; (6) develop belief and value systems that provide a focus for acting as a special educator; and (7) reflect on practice to increase special education knowledge, skills, and beliefs.

Applicants to the M.Ed. Special Education Option must demonstrate an appropriate foundation in "regular" education. Individuals who possess a recognized form of teacher certification have demonstrated this required competency. Candidates who do not have the required educational foundation must complete a Post-Baccalaureate Teacher Certification program in order to demonstrate competency in "regular" education.

Graduates from the Keene State College elementary or secondary education programs who seek certification in General Special Education (K-12) are encouraged to apply to the M.Ed. Special Education Option during their senior year. Graduates of the KSC elementary or secondary education programs who have completed coursework in special education foundations have already addressed fundamental certification competencies. If accepted into the M.Ed. Special Education Option, these individuals will be required to complete fewer credits (see below).

Granite State College students who receive initial or advanced special education certification may transfer these credits into the M.Ed. option (see *Granite State College Partnership* below).

Admission Criteria – Special Education Option

Candidates for admission to the Special Education Option must submit an Application for Graduate Study in Education, including required materials, to the KSC Admissions Office. For additional information regarding specific admissions criteria refer to the Graduate Application.

Special Education Option

32-38 credits

Special Education Certification

20-26 credits

- *EDUCSP 601 Foundations in Special Education (3 credits)
- *EDUCSP 602 Curriculum and Instructional Design (3 credits)
- EDUCSP 603 Positive Behavior Supports (2 credits)
- EDUCSP 604 Assessment and Evaluation in Special Education (3 credits)
- EDUCSP 605 Transition Planning and Programming (3 credits)
- EDUCSP 660 Internship in Special Education I (6 credits)
- EDUCSP 665 Internship in Special Education II (6 credits)

Demonstration of Professional Leadership

12 credits

- EDUC 670 Educational Research Foundations (3 credits)
- EDUC 675 Educational Research Design (3 credits)
- EDUC 680 Educational Research Capstone (6 credits)

* Candidates who completed 8 credits of foundational special education coursework (EDSP 250 and EDSP 350) as a KSC undergraduate will not be required to complete EDUCSP 601/602. The certification component of their M.Ed. will total 20 credits. These candidates will be required to document the special education competencies achieved during the undergraduate work through their Special Education M.Ed. portfolio.

Granite State College Partnership

Individuals who become certified by the New Hampshire Department of Education (NH DOE) after completion of an approved Post-Baccalaureate program at Granite State College (GSC) may qualify to transfer a block of credits via EDUC 612: Demonstrated Certification Competence into the Master of Education degree at KSC. The following GSC certification areas have been approved for transfer into the *Certification* component of the M.Ed. Special Education option at KSC:

Early Childhood Special Education

General Special Education
Emotionally and Behavioral Disabilities
Specific Learning Disabilities
Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

The successful applicant from GSC will have earned at least 18 post-baccalaureate credits with a g.p.a. of 3.0 or higher for each course. Individuals who earned fewer than 26 qualified credits from GSC will be required to complete additional graduate coursework at KSC. The 12 credit *Demonstration of Professional Leadership* component of the M.Ed. must be completed with a cumulative g.p.a. of 3.0 or higher before transfer credit for *Demonstrated Certification Competence* will be awarded. Additional program requirements are outlined in the most recent Memorandum of Understanding between KSC and GSC.

Students who transfer from GSC are encouraged to participate in Institutes and offerings in other KSC graduate programs that serve to enhance their understanding of serving students with disabilities.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AND /OR LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Program objectives and learning outcomes follow national standards set forth by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). This is the accrediting body for beginning special education programs. Learning outcomes for each course and field experience are reflective of these standards. The *Demonstration of Professional Leadership* component for this option follows both CEC and the National Board for Professional Teachers (NBPT) Five Core Propositions (standards).

RATIONALE:

The M.Ed. Special Education Option has been redesigned to include certification in General Special Education. It will replace the Post-Baccalaureate Special Education (PB SPED) program, which was developed with a NH Department of Education grant to address the teacher shortage in special education. This proposed program will continue efforts to increase the number of qualified special education teachers in New England. In fact, the KSC PB SPED Advisory Board suggested, as early as 2004, that the program be offered as a masters degree to make it appealing to educators who would like to pursue special education as an add-on to their current certification.

The development of this option will enable KSC graduates from the elementary and secondary education programs to obtain special education certification after they graduate with a bachelor's degree. The undergraduate secondary education and special education option is no longer available. Therefore, this program will help meet the needs of secondary education students who would like an additional certification and a master's degree. It will also create an option for elementary education graduates who decide that they would like to pursue special education at the graduate level. This certification and master's program will also make our graduates more marketable in NH and in New England.

The coursework for the certification component of the M.Ed. was formerly offered at the 500 level. The proposed upgrade to the 600 level appropriately reflects the level of work being completed. In addition, we have added *EDUCSP 603 Positive Behavior Supports*. These changes will strengthen the program and our ability to meet or exceed professional standards. NCATE program assessment data, in the context of

Council of Exceptional Children (CEC) standards, was used to guide the revisions of the proposed program. By offering the entire program at the 600 graduate level, we can streamline the admission, registration, financial aide, and payment process for candidates in the program.

This program will integrate a true K-12 approach, giving candidates experience in the field at both the elementary and secondary levels. Alternative IV (NH critical teacher shortage license) candidates in the program will be able to complete the field work while working as a special educator. The addition of the Demonstration of Professional Leadership coursework will help to strengthen candidates' special education practices as they must critically examine the professional literature in the field, propose a school improvement research project, and implement this project in the field. This is a common set of courses that focuses on professional leadership and research skills and knowledge that integrates with the culminating experience of other graduate program options.

The program also supports candidates who complete special education certification at Granite State College and desire a Master's degree. The addition of Early Childhood Special Education to the Granite State College (GSC) partnership agreement is also reflected in the proposed program. This addition is reflected in a memorandum of understanding with GSC.

Recruitment of students for this program will begin in Fall 2009 with implementation of the program beginning Summer 2010. The PB SPED program will be deleted for the academic year 2010-2011 and appropriate program deletion paperwork will be submitted in Fall 2009. Specific admissions criteria for the M.Ed. option will be reviewed in Spring 2009 when graduate application changes are scheduled. Any changes to the admissions criteria will be submitted to the Academic Standards Committee along with all other graduate program changes.

RESOURCES:

This option will be coordinated by two tenure track Special Education faculty members, and supported in part by experts from the field (adjunct faculty) for specific content areas and certification competencies. The M.Ed. Special Education Option will replace the Post-Baccalaureate Special Education (PB SPED) program. Therefore, the resources necessary to offer the M.Ed. are already in place. By upgrading the program to a Master's program, we believe the demand will increase, thus better utilizing our current resources by filling classes beyond the small group currently in the PB SPED program. In addition, the Education Department is currently conducting a search for a new tenure track faculty member to begin Fall 2009 to assist with the needs for coursework in special education at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

ADVISORY OPINIONS:

Secondary Education Programs