

Graduate Alternative Pathway/Special Education Certificate



Approx. program length:

55 weeks

Credits:

24

Cost per credit:

\$540

[Tuition Guarantee](#)

Format:

Online

Gain special skills for students with special needs

Help students with disabilities thrive in their educational pursuits with a Graduate Alternative Pathway/Special Education Certificate. This accelerated certificate program is designed for people looking to change careers, those who require emergency teaching certifications or those seeking preparation for teaching licensure. The program focuses on assessing the learning of students with mild to moderate learning disabilities and providing necessary support for various behavioral and learning disorders.

As you move through the certificate program, you'll:

- Design and implement effective instruction
- Apply professional ethics to teaching practices in special education
- Create and modify instructional and behavioral plans for a variety of learning needs
- Create innovative strategies and incorporate technology into the classroom

You can complete your program online in as little as 55 weeks by taking just one course* a time, so you can balance work and life on the path to your graduate certificate.

* Courses are one, six or 12 weeks long

What sets us apart?

When you choose our Graduate Alternative Pathway/Special Education Certificate, you can:

Lock in your tuition

We promise you'll keep the same affordable tuition until you complete your certificate program. Count on tuition to be as dependable as your education.

Learn on your schedule

Designed to fit into the lives of busy working adults, our Graduate Alternative Pathway/Special Education Certificate can be completed one course at a time.

Prepare for licensure

The certificate program is intended for those who are on an emergency certification or have no prior teaching experience and are seeking preparation for teaching licensure.

Networking opportunities

Access powerful networking tools through our PhoenixLink™ career services platform. Take advantage of personal career coaching. Search and apply for jobs, or make your resumé visible to employers. And connect with employers and alumni through career fairs and mixers. It's all about connections. And we help you make them.

Program purpose statement

The Graduate Alternative Pathway/Special Education Certificate is a program intended to prepare students with no prior teaching experience for special education teacher licensure in Arizona. The program includes a clinical component requiring field experiences and student teaching above and beyond program coursework. As state licensure requirements may change frequently, students must contact the Arizona Department of Education to verify current requirements to become a licensed teacher. There may be additional qualifications and/or disqualifications applicable in order to work as a teacher with any local, state or federal entity.

Licensure requirements

The Graduate Alternative Pathway/Special Education Certificate prepares candidates for initial teacher licensure as a special education school teacher. As licensure requirements may vary by state, it's your responsibility to learn and meet licensure requirements in any state where you desire to practice.

[View additional requirements for licensure.](#)

The goal of accreditation is to ensure that education provided by institutions of higher education meets acceptable levels of quality. Accreditation is your assurance the University meets quality standards.

Institutional accreditation

Regional accreditation is an institution-level accreditation status granted by one of six U.S. regional accrediting bodies. Accreditation by more than one regional accrediting body is not permitted by the U.S. Department of Education.

University of Phoenix is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), hlcommission.org. Since 1978, University of Phoenix has been continually accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and its predecessor.

Graduate Alternative Pathway/Special Education Certificate

Course length:

Varies*

* Courses are one, four, six or 12 weeks long

Total credits required:

24

Max. number of waived credits:

3

Requirements and prerequisites

You'll need 24 credits from a set of required courses to complete this Graduate Alternative Pathway/Elementary Education Certificate program. [View additional requirements for licensure.](#)

COE Central

College of Education students will find many helpful resources on COE Central. Program handbooks provide a wealth of information on topics such as professional expectations, clinical experiences, clinical practice, internships, edTPA and much more. Milestone roadmaps, Technology and Multimedia resources, and various toolkits are also available.

<https://multimedia.phoenix.edu/site/college-of-education/>

Core courses

- SEI504: Structured English Immersion-elementary
- APSE584: Learning Disabilities And Language Development Disorders
- MTE503: Orientation To Alt Pathway Certificate
- APSE575: Mathematics Instruction For Sped
- APSE576: Characteristics Of Autism Spectrum Disorders
- APES545: Clinical Practice
- APSE578: Sped -model Theories And Instructional Strategies

The following programs – BSEd/E, BSEd/ECH, MAEd/TED-E, MAEd/TED-S, MAEd/SPE, CERT/AP-E, CERT/AP-S, and CERT/AP-SE – provide the academic preparation required by most states to sit for initial teacher certification exams.

Residents of Alabama, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Texas, Utah and West Virginia: This is an Arizona-based program. As an out-of-state-prepared candidate for initial teacher licensure, your state requires you to obtain Arizona certification first prior to seeking licensure in your home state.

Candidates located in Virginia enrolled in the Alternative Pathway Certificate Program will also be required to obtain Arizona certification first, prior to seeking licensure, in their home state.

For more information on licensure requirements, application materials and website information for your state's board or department of education, click on your state in the link below:

<http://www.phoenix.edu/colleges/college-of-education/teacher-licensure/state-requirements.html>

While widely available, not all programs are available in all locations or in both online and on-campus formats. Please check with a University Enrollment Representative.