



Special Education Program

Program Description

The Special Education program at Cal Poly is an integrated Master's of Science degree in Special Education and Education Specialist Credential program. The program prepares candidates to earn a Preliminary Education Specialist Credential in mild/moderate disabilities while concurrently allowing them to probe more deeply into educational research methodologies and the ways in which these approaches inform practice. Program candidates have a variety of backgrounds ranging from child development and psychology to art and business. Some candidates enter the program already having earned an elementary or secondary California teaching credential.

Cal Poly's Special Education Program provides California with dedicated Special Education teachers who are competent, caring and creative. Graduates of the program are particularly well prepared to:

- Wear the many "hats" required of a special educator, including: teacher, collaborator, data manager, behavioral specialist and advocate
- Create learning environments that are equitable, nurturing and engaging
- Make accommodations and/or modifications to create individualized learning plans for students receiving Special Education services
- Collaborate with parents and school professionals in supporting children and youth with disabilities
- Develop, implement, evaluate and adjust Positive Behavioral Support plans to meet the needs of learners

1. Create a login on Cal State Apply at <https://www2.calstate.edu/apply>
2. Select the Program to which you wish to apply. The Special Education program is listed as a master's degree in the Cal Poly School of Education. You can only apply to one program at Cal Poly at a time, but you can change the program at any time before submitting your application.
3. Complete the Four Quadrants of the application:

1. Personal Information

INCLUDES

- Legal and preferred name
- Legal sex and gender orientation
- Current contact information and permanent address
- Citizenship/residency information
- Race/ethnicity selections
- Language proficiency
- Current military and academic status
- History of academic infractions
- Parent education level

2. Academic History

INCLUDES

- History of all colleges attended (include community college, summer and distance courses)
- List of any related or required courses currently in progress or planned (courses not included on your transcript)
- GPAs
- Standardized test scores for ACT or SAT

3. Supporting Information

INCLUDES

- Information about employment, internship and volunteer experiences
- Upload of Basic Skills Requirement documentation (or qualifying ACT/SAT)
- Upload of CSET examination scores
- Upload of Certificate of Clearance
- Upload of Early Field Experience evidence
- Upload of clear tuberculosis test

4. Program Materials

INCLUDES

- Upload of all unofficial transcripts
- Contact information for three evaluators who will provide letters of recommendation
- Answers and assurances to supplemental questions

- ✓ Prerequisite courses and requirements
- ✓ Professional Aptitude Interview, if requested
- ✓ STEP Application and documents, if admitted



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