

Generalist Non-Degree Licensure Information

Do you want to pursue a Generalist endorsement (non-degree) only? Do you qualify?

The Generalist non-degree licensure endorsement is available for those individuals who meet the following criteria:

1. You already have a special education degree from an accredited institution of higher education OR
2. You already have a Masters degree in another field (but if it is not in an educational field, you will need to pursue teacher licensure as part of the non-degree licensure).

You may NOT pursue non-degree licensure if you do not have a previous graduate degree.

Do I have any options as to how to obtain a non-degree endorsement in Generalist?

Currently, there are two ways to pursue a Generalist endorsement in the state of Colorado.

Route ONE: You can apply directly to the Colorado Department of Education Licensure Unit and bypass enrolling in UNC's non-degree licensure program. CDE staff will review your transcripts and tell you which classes you need to take.

How do I just enroll for the classes I need?

1. Contact CDE and see what courses you have to take based on your transcripts.
2. Register for those courses as an unclassified student.
3. Take and pass the Generalist PLACE exam. (You will also have to take and pass the Elementary Content PLACE if you haven't already done so.)
4. Apply to CDE for licensure.

Please note: If you decide to work through CDE to determine which classes you need to take, UNC will not provide advisement or an institutional recommendation for you. It is up to you to work this out with CDE.

Route TWO: You can apply to UNC as a non-degree licensure student. Once you are accepted, you will receive advisement, a program of study, and an institutional recommendation from UNC after you successfully complete your program. The UNC licensing office will assist you in applying for your licensure.

How do I enroll as a non-degree licensure student at UNC?

1. Take, pass, and provide us documentation of the Elementary Education Content PLACE or Praxis II (you must do this BEFORE we can admit you).

2. Apply through the Graduate School for non-degree licensure in as a Special Education: Generalist teacher.
3. Receive a Plan of Study from us outlining what courses are needed for the non-degree endorsement.
4. Register for and take those courses - you have no time limitations regarding when you take courses or complete your requirements.
5. Take and pass the Generalist PLACE exam and complete a modified comprehensive exam.
6. Apply to CDE for licensure requesting an institutional recommendation from UNC.

What would be the advantage of pursuing non-degree licensure at UNC?

Many educators may choose to simply take the courses they need and apply for Special Education: Generalist licensure through CDE. However, having a non-degree endorsement (and an institutional recommendation) from UNC ensures that your licensure will be considered wherever you decide to teach, regardless of district, state, or country. It is simply stronger verification that you have received comprehensive training in this area (note: each state has its own requirements for licensure; be sure to investigate these requirements if you are considering a move).

What do I do now?

If you are sure that you will teach in Colorado and what you will need for CDE licensure, consider Route One. If you want an institutional recommendation from UNC that will carry with you from district to district and state to state, consider Route 2.

Where can I find information regarding courses and requirements for the Generalist Program?

Information regarding UNC's Generalist courses can be found on our website: www.unco.edu/cebs/sped. Depending on the courses and degree you have previously taken, your program may range from 3 to 30 credit hours, not including initial teacher licensure courses. *We will make a determination of courses needed once we have all of your materials.*

Can I take courses on campus or online?

All of our courses are offered both on campus in Greeley and online. All on-campus courses are offered either at night or on the weekends. Online courses are offered every semester, on a first-come, first-served basis. *You must register early to ensure a place in our online courses!*

Will I be required to take a comprehensive exam or to complete a practicum?

Yes, you will be required to complete a modified, take-home comprehensive exam that will be a part of your professional portfolio. If you have not completed a teaching practicum, you will be required to take a practicum as part of your requirements. If you have already completed a practicum in some area of special education, you will take a practicum that requires six, half-day observations in a variety of settings and with a variety of students with exceptionalities. This will help to ensure that you are familiar with the range of students and educational services available as part of Generalist licensure. You will not be observed teaching or be required to complete an action research project.

Who can I contact with questions?

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Or

Colorado Department of Education Licensing Unit
http://www.cde.state.co.us/index_license.htm