

FAQ'S about the Special Education MA Generalist Emphasis Lowry Campus in Denver

What is the M.A. Generalist program in Special Education?

The MA degree in Special Education with Generalist emphasis prepares teachers who will work with students who are identified with a variety of disabilities from moderate to severe intensity. The emphasis of the program content focuses on literacy and mathematics instruction, understanding standards and assessment, differentiated instruction, and technology. Teachers completing this program will demonstrate the skills needed to provide appropriate behavior supports and accommodations for learning of students with disabilities. The Special Education Generalist is required to pass the approved elementary education content exam prior to entry into the preparation program, and the special education generalist PLACE exam prior to licensing. The program consists of the required courses and practicum requirements agreed upon by the student and advisor. If a student enters the Master of Arts program in Special Education: Generalist without a current teacher licensure, s/he is required to complete additional admission requirements and course requirements listed under Professional Teacher Education (9 credits total).

What is the Lowry Generalist program?

The Lowry program at Denver is the same program as described above with the exception that it is delivered at the Lowry campus in Denver and it follows a cohort model (with the exception of any PTEP courses such as Ed Psych, etc). This means that the program is laid out for the students to take two courses per semester in the weekend format (4 weekends of Friday 5-9, Sat 9-5) classes and that a cohort of no more than 30 students complete the series of classes together. The program is 33 credit hours total, with more potential credits (9 credits) if you come without a background in education. The cohort is scheduled to graduate in exactly two years time if the students follow the schedule that is created by their academic advisor.

Where can I get information about this program?

The main website that you will need to work from is <http://www.unco.edu/CEBS/SPED>
Later, when you are accepted into the program you will link to this next website to get your course registration information:

<http://www.unco.edu/extendedstudies/extended/current/Cur-programs.html>

What is PTEP?

If you are not a licensed teacher, you will need to take the additional Professional Teacher Education Program (PTEP) courses for state licensure. These courses are determined by PTEP licensing personnel and are treated separately from your degree program or non-degree licensure. The contact for all PTEP inquiries is Vicky Stromberger, Licensure Officer
vicky.stromberger@unco.edu or 970-351-1624.

You will see that PTEP is not built into your program because all students have varied course credits. There are, however, semesters where time has been allotted to take PTEP courses if needed. Some of the courses that you may be required to take include: ENG 122 – English

Composition, EDSE 507 – Field Based Experience, EDF 500-Conceptions of Schooling, EDRD 523-Reading and Writing in the Content Areas, and PSY 500-Educational Psychology for Teachers.

NOTE: Prior to taking any of the 600 level courses at UNC, you must complete a zero-credit, pass-fail course that serves as the PTEP application. You must register for this course (EDFE 125) on Ursa (located through www.unco.edu). The course will not cost anything, and will not apply to GPA. However, failure to pass courses on a timely manner will prevent students from registering to other courses and progressing through Teacher Education programs.

EDFE 125 Admission to PTEP Application, Post-baccalaureate (0)

Please use the link below to address the EDFE 125 course:
<http://www.unco.edu/cebs/teachered/check.html#req>

What are the MA Generalist Courses?

Required Emphasis Credits - 33 hours

- EDSE 510 Foundations of Special Education (3)
- EDSE 511 Learning Environments and Cultural Considerations (3)
- EDSE 512 Assessment, IEP Development, and Instructional Planning (3)
- EDSE 613 Applied Assessment (3)
- EDSE 614 Behavioral Interventions (3)
- EDSE 616 Scientifically Based Literacy Interventions (3)
- EDSE 617 Mathematics and Content Area Learning for Students with Disabilities (3)
- EDSE 618 Educating Students with Significant Support Needs (3)
- EDSE 619 Secondary Services (3)
- EDSE 693 Practicum in Special Education (3)

WHAT ARE THE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS?

Application Review

Please note that the Program Coordinators in the School of Special Education will not review incomplete applications. The incomplete applications will be held in the School of Special Education administrative office until all required components of the application have been received.

Application and Other Forms

Download or print the application from the Graduate School Office site at
<http://www.unco.edu/grad/prospective/index.html>

We recommend printing the Adobe Acrobat version of the application at this time because the online application does not include the form used for the letters of recommendation and the Application for Educator License form. The Adobe Acrobat version of the application includes all three items. In addition, the Graduate School Office will hold the application until all original

transcripts have been received, whether the on-line application, or the printed application is used. The Graduate School Office will not forward the application to the School of Special Education until these items have been received. The speed of the online application is dependent on the speed that the Graduate School receives the original transcripts.

NOTE: *You will not be accepted into the program until you have taken and passed the Elementary or PLACE Praxis, unless you hold a current Colorado elementary education teaching license.* You can register for up to 9 credit hours without being accepted to UNC. The application process for the Lowry program is the same application for the mail UNC campus, with the exception that ***you will be checking the box on the application form that indicates you are applying for the off-campus program.***

Letters of Recommendation

Please note that the form used for a letter of recommendation must include a letter either printed either on the back of the form or attached. The letter must have an original signature. E-mailed letters with no original signature will not be accepted. Letters of recommendation may come from academic professors, employers, or from someone who is familiar with your work and professional career. A copy of an evaluation will also be accepted in lieu of one letter of recommendation.

Statement of Educational Philosophy and Goals

In addition to the applications and letters of recommendation, the School of Special Education requires a written Statement of Educational Philosophy and Goals. This need not be lengthy. A statement regarding what your philosophy is for teaching and why you want the degree is sufficient; usually 1 or 2 typed pages.

Exams and Grade Point Average

If your grade point average is less than 3.0, scores from the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) are required. GRE scores must be a minimum of a composite score of 900 on Verbal and Quantitative, and 3.5 on Analytical Writing Samples.

Graduate School must convert them. Credit points are usually defined on official transcripts. If they are not defined, the Graduate School applies a standard key with an A being 4.0 points, a B being 3.0 points, etc. Simply put, the total credit points divided by the total credits will be the GPA. However, some complications arise in circumstances with unique situations such as repeated courses. The Graduate School advises that if you have any questions about your GPA, you may supply official transcripts to them and they will calculate your GPA for you. For example, before you actually mail them, you can fax them if you have GPA questions and they will calculate for you and let you know what your GPA is. They will not work with transcripts from on-line because the credit definitions are rarely included in on-line transcripts. The Graduate School Office may be contacted at 970-351-2691 (Fax: 970-351-2371) for questions.

Application Checklist

- Completed Application for Graduate School
- Completed Application for Educator License
- Two Letters of Recommendation Forms with letters attached

- ___ Statement of Educational Philosophy and Goals
- ___ Photocopy of official GRE Scores if your GPA is less than 3.0 (GPA based on the last 60 hours of a semester system, or 90 hours of a quarter system – see the GPA explanation above)
- ___ Photocopy of current Elementary Education Teaching License if applying to Generalist program
- ___ Photocopy of official PLACE or PRAXIS II Elementary Content scores if applying to Generalist program and you do not have a current license in Elementary Education.

Additional Generalist Exam or License Requirements

The application requirements described in the Master's Handbook do not include the additional Generalist requirement of test results from the Elementary Content of either the PLACE or PRAXIS II exam. Generally, if you live in Colorado, you should take the PLACE exam for admission. If you are applying from out of state, you should choose the Praxis II exam so you can take it in your state and mail us the results.

If you are applying for the Generalist program, and you do not currently have an Elementary Education teaching license, official test scores from either the PLACE or PRAXIS II exam in Elementary Content are required before your application will be **reviewed**. Contrary to what the exam organizations indicate, we will not automatically receive your test scores. When you get your official scores, please either mail a photocopy or fax a copy to the School of Special Education at 970-351-1061. If you already have official scores from the Elementary Content exam when you prepare your application, please include a photocopy of your official test score page with the application materials. If you currently hold a teaching license in Elementary Education, test scores are not required. If you have a current Elementary Education license, include a photocopy of your license with your application materials.

The exam requirement and information about the Generalist program and any conversions from old programs are found at: <http://www.unco.edu/cebs/sped/>. This requirement is for the Generalist program ONLY in lieu of a current license in Elementary Education

Information about the Colorado PLACE exam for the Generalist Program may be found on the PLACE Web site.

Information is available for the PRAXIS II Elementary Education Exam (for the Generalist Program) on the PRAXIS Web site.

For frequently asked questions, please go to the website below:
http://www.unco.edu/cebs/sped/FAQ_all_programs.html

Who do I contact if I am interested in the Lowry MA Generalist Program and have additional questions?

Tracy Gershwin Mueller, Ph.D (Lowry Program Coordinator)
School of Special Education
University of Northern Colorado
501 20th Street,

Campus Box 141
Greeley, CO 80639
Phone: 970-351-1664
Fax: 970-351-1061

Who do I contact if I have questions about the application process or status of my application?

Diane Bassett, Ph.D.
Professor of Special Education
(Generalist Coordinator)
diane.bassett@unco.edu or 970-351-1648
University of Northern Colorado
School of Special Education
Campus Box 141
Greeley, CO 80639

Website resources can be found in the School of Special Education Website:

<http://www.unco.edu/cebs/sped/>

If your question relates to:

..... **ADMISSION PROCESSES AND EXPECTATIONS**, then click on the “Overview of Programs” button. (If completing the application process was the primary reason for your inquiry, then please check the attached file, which contains detailed instructions. Note that we have no deadlines, but please keep in mind that it takes, conservatively, 3 months to process an application, once all materials have been received from you.)

..... **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**, then click on the “Course Descriptions” button, then the “Graduate” catalog link, and finally the “Generalist Emphasis.”

..... **CURRENT COURSE OFFERINGS**, then click on the “Schedule of Classes” button for special education classes that are coming up next semester. (Alternatively, you can go to a university-wide class schedule at <http://www.unco.edu/sched/>.)

..... completing the **PLACE** or **PRAXIS** tests, then click on the “Overview of Programs” button.

..... **NON-DEGREE LICENSURE**, because you need a generalist endorsement but you already have a teaching license and/or a Master's Degree, then click first on the “Programs” button, and secondly on the link for the Master of Arts: Generalist program. You will see the specific application requirements on that page. For additional information on whether that option is right for you and what is involved, download the document at the Frequently Asked Questions (non-degree) link near the bottom of that webpage.

..... COSTS PER CREDIT HOUR, during the 2008-09 school year, tuition for the students attending the Lowry program were \$340/credit hour. There are no course fees and no out of state tuition charged within for classes offered in the Extended Degree Programs.

..... finding out more about the LOWRY OFF-CAMPUS PROGRAM in the Denver area, then click on the “Overview of Programs” button.