

## Master of Science in Education in Special Education Specialization in Learning Behavior Specialist I

Students seeking Initial Teacher Certification in Special Education (LBS I)

### Student check list

Prior to admission to the program:

- \_\_\_\_\_ An undergraduate GPA of 3.00 or higher for the last two years of undergraduate work.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A score of 800 or higher on the Graduate Record Examination General Test. Information about taking the exam can be found at [www.gre.org](http://www.gre.org).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Three letters of recommendation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A completed admissions application and a \$30 fee to the Graduate School. [www.grad.niu.edu/pdf/gradapp.pdf](http://www.grad.niu.edu/pdf/gradapp.pdf)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Successful completion of the Illinois State Certification Testing System Test of Basic Skills. You can find information about this test located at <http://www.icts.nesinc.com/>. The study guide for the Basic Skills Test is located at <http://www.icts.nesinc.com/>. Please provide a copy of the passing score to the graduate secretary in the Department of Teaching and Learning, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115.

Once you have been admitted:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Meet with your faculty advisor to plan your Program of study. Now is the time to discuss any life experience and how you may substitute it for some of your clinical experience. Your faculty advisor can discuss the procedures to use to substitute your life experience for the student teaching clinical. You should also discuss any transfer credits from other universities. Please have a copy of the syllabus from the course(s) in question. The syllabus will be used to determine if the appropriate course standards have been met.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Complete a Criminal Background Check (<http://www.teachercertification.niu.edu>).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Clinical experience, if needed. Please telephone the Clinical office (815-753-9096) to 1 year prior to the semester you expect to student teach. All graduate students applying for student teaching must be admitted into the graduate program before they turn in their paperwork to the clinical office.  
**Note:** Student teaching clinical assignments are not available during the summer session.

For students whose undergraduate major was not special education or who have limited background in their chosen specialization, deficiency requirements or course prerequisites have been established by the department. Deficiency or prerequisite course hours may not be counted toward the minimum 36 semester hours of the master's degree program.

Program of study for LBSI certification:

- \_\_\_\_\_ One graduate-level course in research approved by adviser (3)  
ETR 520 or ETR 521 or ETR 525 or another course with adviser approval
- \_\_\_\_\_ ETR534, Dynamic Assessment for Student with High-Incidence Disabilities (3) Note:  
Prerequisite ETR 434 or consent of ETRA department
- \_\_\_\_\_ TLSE540, Foundations of Special Education (3)
- \_\_\_\_\_ TLSE512, Methods for Teaching Student Learning Disabilities (3)
- \_\_\_\_\_ TLSE513, Methods for Teaching Elementary Students with High-Incidence Disabilities (3)

- \_\_\_\_\_ TLSE514, Methods for Teaching Secondary Students with High-Incidence Disabilities (3)
- \_\_\_\_\_ TLSE583, Initial Field Experience in Special Education (1-3)
- \_\_\_\_\_ TLSE557, Functional Analysis for Special Educators (3)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Note: Prerequisite TLSE 447 or TLSE 454 or consent of department
- \_\_\_\_\_ TLSE452, Assistive Technology/Multiple Disabilities (3)
- \_\_\_\_\_ TLSE561, Methods for Teaching Individuals with Developmental Disabilities and/or Multiple Disabilities (3)
- \_\_\_\_\_ TLSE563, Methods for Teaching Students with Emotional Disturbance (3)
- \_\_\_\_\_ TLSE565, Collaboration and Consultation Skills for School Professionals (3)

These last two courses will be paired together:

- \_\_\_\_\_ TLSE547, Issues and Trends in Special Education (1)
- \_\_\_\_\_ TLSE587A, Elementary or Secondary Practicum in Learning Behavior Specialist I (6)

In addition, individuals not currently holding teacher certification in the State of Illinois must include the following (see advisor for course selection):

- \_\_\_\_\_ One course in educational foundations (3). Most community colleges offer a course that articulates with EPFE201. Other foundations classes offered at NIU that would fulfill this would include EPFE 505 and LTIC 501.
- \_\_\_\_\_ One course in child development (3). Most community colleges offer a course that articulates with FCNS 280 at NIU. A student may also choose to take EPS 405.

Prior to student teaching:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Successful completion of the LBSI content exam. ([www.icts.nesinc.com](http://www.icts.nesinc.com)) Please provide a copy of the passing score to the graduate secretary in the Department of Teaching and Learning, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Please contact the Clinical office (815-753-9096) to 1 year prior to the semester you expect to take your clinical experience. **Note:** Student teaching clinical assignments are not available during the summer session. Part or all of your student teaching may be met by substituting appropriate life experience, please see your advisor.

Prior to graduation:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Meet with your advisor to determine if all requirements for your Masters degree have been completed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Early in the semester you plan to graduate complete the Application for Graduation. The applications are available from the Graduate School web site <http://www.grad.niu.edu>. Failure to do so will delay your graduation.

Prior to certification:

Although not required for graduation the following must be completed prior to certification.

- \_\_\_\_\_ LBS I students seeking certification after October 1, 2006. Successful completion of the Special Education General Curriculum Test. (<http://www.isbe.net/teachers>)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Successful completion of the APT for LBSI. (<http://www.icts.nesinc.com>)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Complete the certification form available on-line via OTIS at [www.isbe.net/OTIS](http://www.isbe.net/OTIS). Once you receive your certificate, you will need to register it at the Regional Office of Education for the area in which you will, or hope to be teaching. You can find a list of the Regional Offices located at <http://www.isbe.net/regionaloffices/pdf/roedirectory.pdf>