

OVERVIEW: Requirements for Post-Baccalaureate Initial License in Special Education

Initial-License Option

Candidates for this option are sometimes referred to as "career changers" because they have completed an undergraduate degree but do not have a teaching license. The courses for this post-baccalaureate option lead to an Indiana all-grade teaching license in Mild Intervention but does not result in a second undergraduate degree or a master's degree. Because most candidates in this option are teaching full-time, fall and spring courses are held at night. Summer courses are in the morning, afternoon and evening. Generally candidates will take one night class each fall and spring semester and two to three courses each summer in order to complete the program within the three-year timeframe mandated by Indiana.

On a limited case-by-case basis, students who are not teaching full time in special education may be admitted to the program under increased requirements.

The "General Information and Policies" section contains information that applies to candidates for this post-bac initial license option. Additional information follows:

- Candidates are responsible for keeping abreast of program changes and completing needed courses and other requirements for renewing their emergency permits. NOTE: Only courses identified by the program faculty as needed for the license satisfy renewal stipulations. Candidates failing to fulfill prescribed requirements are subject to non-renewal and potential job loss.
- Candidates may complete undergraduate or graduate courses to fulfill licensing requirements. However, undergraduate level courses cannot be used for the Master's degree in Elementary or Secondary Education. All graduate students, regardless of whether they are pursuing a degree or not, pay graduate level tuition and fees even if the course is taken at the undergraduate level.
- Acceptance into the Special Education Program does not mean acceptance into any other School of Education degree or license program.
- Some courses are offered only annually and not in summer sessions. Candidates are responsible for adjusting their personal schedules to complete requirements.
- Use of the internet to maintain communication between candidates and program faculty is expected.
- To qualify for an Indiana Mild Intervention teaching license, students must meet all program requirements, successfully pass through summative decision points, satisfy state-prescribed standardized tests, clear a criminal history check, and complete license application processes. Students seeking Kentucky certification should discuss this with the program coordinator.

Program Expectations.

Candidates must meet ten performance goals. (See General Information and Policies section.) Candidates are expected to take ownership of their professional preparation and program faculty are expected to organize and provide effective learning experiences and assess candidates and program performance.

Performance Level Requirement.

Candidates will progress through a series of summative decision points. The four summative decision points are: admission, during first field experience, application for final field experience, and after all coursework is completed. See the program coordinator for specific requirements for each summative decision point. At each point, candidates' performance will be assessed and their acceptance, continuation, or completion of the program judged. Continuation status may be reevaluated at points other than summative decision points if significant difficulties are noted.

Information about Master's Degree

The post-baccalaureate initial license program does not yield a degree. Candidates wishing to pursue a master's degree at IUS should attend an orientation meeting (see SOE website for dates). After completing the initial-license in special education option, candidates may apply to the Master's in Elementary or Secondary Education degree program. No more than 15 credit hours of IUS graduate level work completed

for the initial-license program with a grade of at least a “B” or “Satisfactory” (in a course graded S/F) can be brought into the master’s degree program. All coursework to be applied to the degree must be completed within six calendar years from the completion date of the first that is to be used toward the degree. Candidates will be held to the master’s degree requirements in effect at the time of admission to that program