

**The Special Education and Curriculum and Instruction with emphasis in Language  
and Literacy Education Integrated Undergraduate-Graduate Program  
(SE/CI-LLED IUG)  
Student Handbook**

## **Overview**

The integrated undergraduate-graduate program in Special Education and Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in Language and Literacy Education and certification as a reading specialist is designed to enable qualified undergraduates enrolled in the Special Education program to graduate in five years with a B.S. in Special Education, a M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction, and certification in Special Education and as a Reading Specialist (K-12). In addition to the field based experiences included in the SPLED program, students in the IUG will complete graduate level courses focusing on the extensive literature on teaching reading and will work in an on campus reading clinic with learners without identified special needs but who require additional support learning to read.

## **Background**

Pennsylvania's Special Education (SPLED) teacher certification requirements mandate that those teaching students with special needs in PA hold two certifications (e.g. SPLED plus another certificate). The primary area of academic need of students with disabilities is in the area of reading and the Pennsylvania Department of Ed (PDE) has included certification as a Reading Specialist (along with completion of a SPLED degree) as qualifying one to teach special education in Pre-Kindergarten through high school settings and across exceptionalities. The undergraduate degree in SPLED requires 4 semesters of rigorous coursework combined with a series of related field experiences. While there is significant emphasis on the teaching of reading within these four semesters, additional in-depth study of reading at the graduate level will be highly valuable to SPLED majors, and the learners they teach, as will earning a reading specialist (RS) certificate. Course work and credits required to earn a reading specialist in a full time course of study require two summers and an academic year post graduation to complete. This may be cost prohibitive for many students and an IUG offers the advantage of two certifications at a reduced financial and temporal cost that may provide some relief to students while enhancing their overall teaching skill.

To summarize, the benefits of the SE/CI-LLED IUG are that this IUG will:

- (1) Permit coherent planning of an in-depth study of the teaching of reading through a graduate program emphasizing the teaching of Reading
- (2) Result in graduates holding two PA teaching certificates
- (3) Allow cost savings for students challenged to cover rising tuition rates
- (4) Encourage earlier contact with faculty outside of Special Education who also have expertise in reading
- (5) Make resources of the graduate school available to students

## **Who is the appropriate SE/CI-LLED IUG student?**

The five-year, SE/CI-LLED IUG is an option for highly qualified students seeking certification to teach Special Education in Pennsylvania and who have a minimum GPA of 3.5 or higher and a grade of B or better in SPLED 412. Students not intending to stay in PA may also apply if they desire and meet admission requirements.

## **Admission**

### Time of Admission to SE/CI-LLED IUG

Students wishing to apply for admission to the SE/CI-LLED IUG initiate application during the semester in which they complete SPLED 412. They finalize the application process at the end of the semester with a grade of B or better in SPLED 412. While this is typically the end of the junior year of study, it may fall sooner or later.

### Joint Admission

Admission to the SE/CI-LLED IUG with reading specialist program will be based upon having attained a minimum GPA of 3.5 in Special Education courses, with a grade of B or better in SPLED 412. Admission will be based on a recommendation by the Reading Specialist Program Coordinator in consultation with the Coordinator of Teacher Education in Special Education.

If the student decides not to continue on to the joint SE/CI-LLED IUG, the student may complete SPLED 495 in their final semester and graduate with a B.S. in Special Education.

## **Plan of Study and Sequence of Courses**

Although a recommended sequence of courses is provided below (after delineation of requirements for both degrees individually), prospective students should work closely with the CI RS program adviser (as well as their SPLED adviser) prior to admission to the IUG program to prepare their IUG plan of study. Following the sequence below enables a student who for some reason is unable to complete the IUG to complete a student teaching experience in SPLED during the eighth semester and complete the SPLED undergraduate degree in a timely manner. The entire program is between 147-150.

### B. S. Special Education Requirements (as stand alone degree)

For the B.S. degree in Special Education, 121 credits are required.

Scheduling Recommendation by Semester Standing given like (Sem: 1-2)

GENERAL EDUCATION: 45 credits

(12-15 of these 45 credits are included in the REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR)

(See description of General Education in this bulletin.)

FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR:

(Included in ELECTIVES or GENERAL EDUCATION course selections)

UNITED STATES CULTURES AND INTERNATIONAL CULTURES:

(Included in ELECTIVES or GENERAL EDUCATION course selections)

WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM:

(Included in REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR)

ELECTIVES: 3 credits[19]

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR: 87-90 credits[21]

(This includes 12-15 credits of General Education courses: 6 credits of GQ courses; 6 credits of GS courses; and 0-3 credits of GHA courses.)

PRESCRIBED COURSES (81 credits)

EDPSY 014(3), EDPSY 101 GQ(3), EDTHP 115 US(3), EDPSY 10 (3), MATH 200 GQ(3), EDPSY 421 (3), PSYCH 100 GS(3), PSYCH 212 GS(3) (Sem: 1-4)

SPLED 425(4), SPLED 395W(3), SPLED 401(4), SPLED 408(3), SPLED 411(3), SPLED 412(4), SPLED 404 (3), SPLED 454(4), SPLED 495E(3) (Sem: 5-6)

SPLED 409A(3), SPLED 409B(3), SPLED 409C(3), SPLED 418 (2), SPLED 495F(15), SPLED 495G(4) (Sem: 7-8)

ADDITIONAL COURSES (0-3 credits)

Red Cross Certification in First Aid and CPR(0)

SUPPORTING COURSES AND RELATED AREAS (6 credits)[19]

[21] A grade of C or better per course is required for all Special Education prerequisites and teacher certification.

M. Ed. Curriculum and Instruction Requirements with emphasis in Language and Literacy Education with Reading Specialist certificate (as stand alone degree)

For the M.Ed. degree in Curriculum And Instruction 30 credits are required

CORE AREAS (9 credits chose one course from each area):

Curriculum: CI 550

Research: CI 501 or EDPSY 400

Learning: EDPSY 421, EDPSY 545, or HDFS 429

EMPHASIS IN LANGUAGE AND LITERACY EDUCATION WITH READING SPECIALIST (\* denotes required courses)

\*LL ED 500, \*LL ED 501, \*LL ED 545, \*LL ED 550, \*LL ED 595A, EDLDR 563, and EDPSY 526 (EDPSY 421 prereq.)

Note: LL ED 550 and LL ED 595A must be taken concurrently (summers only).

A passing score on the PRAXIS Reading Specialist Exam (qualifying score of 570) is required for Reading Specialist certification.

Recommended Plan of Study beginning in 5th semester  
(Includes courses required for both SPLED and CI RS)

<b>Fifth semester:</b> (16 credits)	SPLED 395W	(3)	
	SPLED 401	(4)	
	SPLED 408	(3)	
	SPLED 425	(4)	
	EDPSY 421	(3)	
<b>Sixth semester:</b> (13 credits)	SPLED 404	(3)	
	SPLED 411	(3)	
	SPLED 412	(4)	
	SPLED 495E	(3)	(Apply for admission to SE/CI LLED IUG)
<b>Summer 1:</b> (3 credits)	*LLED 500	(3)	
<b>Seventh semester:</b> (16 credits)	SPLED 409 A, B, C	(9)	
	SPLED 495G	(4)	
	SPLED 418	(2)	
<b>Eighth semester:</b> (12 credits)	*SPLED 530	(3)	
	*CI 501 or		
	EDPSY 400	(3)	
	*LLED 545	(3)	
	*EDPSY 526	(3)	
<b>Summer 2:</b> (6 credits)	*LLED 550	(3)	
	+*LLED 595A	(3)	
<b>Ninth semester:</b> (9 credits)	*LLED 501	(3)	
	*EDLR 563	(3)	
	*CI 550	(3)	
<b>Tenth semester:</b>	SPLED 495F	(15)	

+\* Course will fulfill undergrad special education and RS program requirements

Note: A Master's paper is required for completion of the M.Ed.

### Advising

Beginning during the application process, as well as subsequent to admission, students should communicate with both their SPLED program adviser and the program adviser for the CI Reading Specialist program to ensure requirements of both programs are met.

**Reduced Course Load**

EDPSY 421 and LLED 595A may be double counted for the RS as well as SPLED degrees.

**Tuition Charges**

Undergraduate tuition rates will apply as long as the student is an undergraduate, unless the student receives financial support, for example an assistantship requiring payment of graduate tuition.