The master's degree program in childhood special education is an integrated dual-certificate program, and leads to endorsement for New York state teacher certification as a childhood teacher (grade 1-6) and as a teacher of children with disabilities in childhood education.

The program includes coursework in child development, instructional practices for children in regular and special-education settings, and professional studies. The field experiences are coordinated with courses to help candidates understand and apply theory in effective practice. Student-teaching experience is gained in both regular and special-education settings. This program is nationally recognized by the Council for Exceptional Children.

Admissions

Applicants to all childhood programs must meet the general requirements for admission to the Graduate School of Education and the requirements for admission to initial teacher education programs.

In addition, applicants for any of the childhood programs must have the following:

- An undergraduate degree from an accredited university in one of the liberal arts or sciences. For example, English, American, or comparative literature; mathematics; an area of science; modern languages; media studies; women's studies; political science; computer science; information science; communications; history; sociology; anthropology; economics; the arts; or psychology.
- College-level study in the following general education core areas: artistic expression, concepts in history and social sciences, a language other than English, scientific processes, mathematical processes, written analysis and expression, and communication

In addition, candidates for the bilingual extension must provide evidence of their competence in a language other than English by fulfilling one of the following three options:

1. Taking and obtaining a passing score on the ACTFL Language Test (oral and written) in the target language;
2. Documentation in transcripts of having completed undergraduate studies in the target language; or
3. Agreeing to complete successfully two courses in the target language

Required Workshops

The workshops listed below are required of all Initial Teaching (M.S.T.) programs as well as certain other programs related to NY state licensure.

Course | Title | Credits
--- | --- | ---
EDGE 0230 | Schools Against Violence Education Workshop | 0
EDGE 0210 | Child Abuse Identification and Reporting Workshop | 0
EDGE 0260 | Dignity for All Students Training | 0
EDGE 0220 | Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Training | 0

In addition to the workshops listed above, the following workshops are also required of students in this M.S.T. program:

Course | Title | Credits
--- | --- | ---
EDGE 0250 | Health and Physical Education Training | 0
EDGE 0270 | Autism Training Module | 0