

## Special Education: the StepAhead Program



### DID YOU KNOW?

- ☛ Almost 6 million students (ages 6-21) in the US are served under Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (2004).
- ☛ Approximately 11% of the population ages 6 – 17 is identified as having a disability (Dept. of Education, 2002).
- ☛ In a typical classroom of 30 students there will be at least 3 students with disabilities.
- ☛ The shortage of special education teachers in the United States continues to increase every year.
- ☛ In the 2003-2004 school year, 358 special education positions in the state of Kansas were filled by people not prepared for their position.

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#### Mission of the College of Education

The College of Education is dedicated to its vision of preparing educators to be knowledgeable, ethical, caring decision makers through excellence in the:

- delivery of exemplary instruction to students at the undergraduate and graduate levels;
- production, interpretation, and dissemination of sound and useful research and scholarship;
- provision of leadership, collaboration, and service within the profession; and
- promotion, understanding, and celebration of diversity

Obtaining a  
Provisional Endorsement  
in Special Education while  
completing an  
undergraduate degree in  
Secondary Education

## WHO SHOULD BE INVOLVED?

Secondary Education undergraduate students in the College of Education with an interest in Special Education.

## WHY IS SPECIAL EDUCATION SO IMPORTANT?

- ☛ Special education is instruction specially designed to meet the unique needs of a child whose disability affects his or her educational performance or ability to learn in a regular classroom (SERCF, 2005).
- ☛ Special education teachers are trained to use specialized teaching methods and programs to meet specific learning needs of students with disabilities.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROVISIONAL ENDORSEMENT:

Secondary Education students who want to begin teaching special education before completing a full licensure program can follow this plan, completing the required special education coursework and student teaching with a Special Education Practicum (during the final semester with their content area student teaching). Individuals completing this option will be eligible for provisional endorsement in secondary adaptive special education *after* accepting a special education teaching position.

## WHAT CLASSES DO I TAKE?

### Prerequisite:

<sup>a</sup>EDSP 323 (F, S, Su)

Exceptional Student in Secondary Schools

### Classes leading to provisional endorsement in special education:

<sup>a,b</sup>EDSP 710 (F, S, Su)

Education of Exceptional Individuals

EDSP 742 (F, S, Su)

Interventions: Emotional and Behavior Disorders

EDSP 743 (F, S, Su)

Interventions: Academic Disabilities

EDSP 745 (Su) ~

The Consulting Process in Special Education

EDSP 785 (F, S)

Practicum in Special Education

<sup>a</sup> Note: EDSP 323 and EDSP 710 may be taken concurrently

<sup>b</sup> Note: EDSP 710 is a prerequisite for the remaining courses

## WHAT WILL MY PRACTICUM LOOK LIKE?

As part of the StepAhead program you will complete a 3-credit hour practicum (EDSP 785) in conjunction with your Block 3 student teaching experience. Your practicum placement will provide you opportunities to teach in both resource and inclusive special education settings.

## WHY CONSIDER A PROVISIONAL ENDORSEMENT IN SPECIAL EDUCATION?

\*You're getting a "StepAhead" to a Master's degree!

\*Allows you to work as a special education teacher while finishing a Special Education endorsement for the State of Kansas.

\*Better preparation for including students with special needs in your general education classroom.

\* A special education background increases your opportunities of getting a job!