TVI Program of Study

Students seeking Initial Teacher Licensure in Special Education, Teacher of Students Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired

This checklist is an advising tool. It is the student’s responsibility to read the Graduate Catalog for programmatic information including courses, course prerequisites and other program requirements. Teacher Licensure course work may differ from degree course work, work with your advisor to prepare for teacher Licensure.

PREPARING FOR ADMISSION:

______ An undergraduate GPA of 3.00 or higher for the last two years of undergraduate work.

______ Two letters of recommendation.

______ A completed admissions application to the Graduate School. (A complete graduate application includes, a completed application, payment an application fee, official transcripts, career goals statement, and letters of recommendation).

NOTE: Although no longer required for admission to the professional courses it is strongly recommended that you successfully complete the Illinois State Licensure Testing System, Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP), before enter or early in your program. You can find information and a study guide for this test on the ILTS Website. This score will be needed prior to student teaching.

If you completed the ACT+writng or SAT you may substitute the scores in for the TAP. If you choose this option must submit the scores to the State as soon as possible but prior to student teaching (the deadline for the listing of the scores on the State website will be published by the department). If you choose this option it is your responsibility to verify the scores are listed in your ELIS account. More Information.

Please provide a copy of the passing score to the graduate secretary in the Department of Special and Early Education (SEED) for your licensure file.

*The GRE is no longer required for admission to the TVI program. Please be aware that if you are seeking grant aid from one of the vision grants in this department you may be required to take the exam. Please contact Stacy Kelly, Ph.D. at skelly@niu.edu or Gaylen Kapperman, Ph.D. at gkapperman@niu.edu for more information on the grants.
Prior to student teaching you are required to complete the following:

**Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP)** or you may substitute the ACT+writing or SAT. The deadline for the listing of the scores on the State website will be published by the department.

**Teacher of Students Who are Blind or Visually Impaired Content Test # 150** required for Licensure; take during last semester prior to student teaching. Visit the [ILTS website](#) for more information.

**Special Education General Curriculum Test (SEGC) # 163** required for Licensure; take during last semester prior to student teaching. Visit the [ILTS website](#) for more information.

**NIU School Safety Tutorial**: Please submit a copy of the email you receive to the Graduate Secretary once you complete the tutorial.

**Mandated Reporter**: If you already completed a workshop or course, please provide a copy of the completed tutorial or course to the graduate secretary, 162 Gabel Hall, Department of Special and Early Education, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115. In you need to complete a tutorial please visit the SEED [Student Resources](#) page and locate the materials under the Clinicals section.

**TB Test (within a calendar year before clinicals; provide graduate secretary with evidence of negative result issued by medical office)**: It is your responsibility to bring in a current TB Clearance card to the SEED Graduate Secretary (GA 162). You cannot student teach without a valid TB card.

**Criminal Background Check** To be completed at your placement location prior to starting your clinical or student teaching.

**Capacity to Perform** You may need to complete a physical exam through the district you are assigned by the Clinical Office.

**Prior to Licensure:**

Completion of the Teaching Performance Assessment (edTPA). General information is located within the [University Office of Educator Licensure and Preparation](#) website.

**Fall 1:**

_____ SEVI 500: Education of Students with VI

_____ SEVI 510: Anatomy, Pathology and Function of the Eye

_____ SEVI 520: Literary Braille

_____ SEVI 530: Basic Orientation and Mobility

_____ SEVI 550: Assistive Technology
Spring 1:
_____ SEVI 521: Advanced Braille
_____ SEVI 540: Communication Systems Used By Persons with VI
_____ SEVI 541: Instructional Systems for Utilization of Low Vision
_____ SEVI 580A: Teaching Practicum (1)
_____ *Licensure elective if needed

Summer 1:
_____ SEVI 551 (TLSE 580): Advanced Assistive Technology
_____ SEVI 552: Consultation and Collaboration
_____ SESE 792: Single Subject Research (if SESE 792 is not offered ETR 520 may be substituted)
_____ *Licensure Elective if needed
_____ *Licensure Elective if needed

Fall 2:
_____ SEVI 586: Topical Seminar in Teaching Students w/Visual Impairments
_____ SEVI 581: Student Teaching in Elementary Special Education: Vision Impairments (5)
_____ SEVI 582: Student Teaching in Secondary Special Education: Vision Impairments (4)

Spring 2:
_____ *Licensure Elective if needed
_____ *Licensure Elective if needed
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*Licensure Electives: These courses maybe at the graduate or undergraduate level. Students can decide to take the course prior to enrolling in the program, during their time in the program as allowed by a max of 15 hours a semester, or after student teaching. Ideally students should complete this course
work prior to student teaching. Licensure will not be grant until all course work is complete. Please work with the academic advisor to make the appropriate choice.

The course includes a course in (examples of NIU courses):
- Child Development – NIU course(s) EPS 505
- Foundations of Education – NIU course(s) EPFE 201, 500, 521
- Multicultural Education – NIU course(s) LTIC 501, LTIC 520, LTIC 547
- Reading – NIU course(s) LTRE 500, LTRE 505, LTRE 516
- Foundations or Survey of Special Education – NIU SESE 540
- Assessment of Students with Special Needs – NIU ETR 524

Prior to graduation:

Meet with your advisor to determine if all requirements for your Masters have been completed.

The semester before you plan to graduate, complete the Application for Graduation. You should apply using My NIU. Failure to do so will delay your graduation.

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