

SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANT

Faculty of Health and Community Studies
Department of Human Services and Early Learning
MacEwan.ca/SpecialNeeds (<http://MacEwan.ca/SpecialNeeds>)

The Special Needs Educational Assistant program prepares graduates to assist teachers in developing and implementing appropriate instructional programs and methods within educational settings. The implementation of inclusive educational policies for students with special needs has created a strong demand for trained educational assistants. The certificate provides a solid foundation of theoretical knowledge combined with practical strategies to support classroom instructional, behavioural, and social learning of students with exceptionalities.

The program is offered in full-time day, part-time evening, and distance formats.

On-Campus Day Program

The 8 month (September - April) full-time program is offered at City Centre Campus.

On-Campus Part-time Evening Program

Evening classes are offered at City Center Campus. Students can begin classes in September or January and complete the program in 2-4 years.

Distance

Distance study makes the program accessible to students regardless of geographic location and provides the flexibility to balance studies with professional and family responsibilities. Students access their course material and readings online and become part of a virtual community of learners. Students learn content through a combination of self-study and faculty guided online discussions. The program can be completed in 2-4 years

Career Potential

Educational assistants are employed as valuable members of learning teams in a variety of educational settings including pre-school early intervention programs, kindergarten through grade 12 and post-secondary programs. The demand for program graduates in the field continues to be high.

Transferability

Internal Opportunities

MacEwan University is committed to providing bridging and laddering opportunities to its certificate and diploma graduates. Graduates of this program can transfer up to 30 credits to MacEwan University's Bachelor of Child and Youth Care degree after successful completion of bridging courses and up to 15 credits to the Bachelor of Arts degree.

External Opportunities

All courses completed for the Special Needs Educational Assistant certificate are credit courses and may be transferable individually toward further study at other Alberta institutions. Students presenting a completed certificate in this program may be eligible for a block transfer to other Alberta institutions. For current, detailed information on individual course and certificate transferability, refer to the

Learner Pathways System at www.transferalberta.ca (<http://www.transferalberta.ca>) or contact the receiving institution directly.

Contact Information

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PROGRAM OFFICE

Robbins Health Learning Centre
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Categories of Admission

Applicants may be admitted to one of the following:

Regular Admission

To be evaluated through the Office of the University Registrar

Applicants must have a minimum overall average of 60 percent, with no course grade lower than 50 percent, in the following high school courses:

1. ELA 30-1 or ELA 30-2
2. Two subjects from Group A, B, C or D

Applicants with nine or more post-secondary level credits must also present a minimum Admission Grade Point Average (AGPA) of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.

Notes:

1. Applicants are strongly encouraged to present a broad range of subjects across the humanities and sciences in order to benefit from the breadth of learning and to increase flexibility of future course choices.
2. A maximum of one Group D subject may be presented. Group D subjects used for admission must be 5 credit or any credit combination of at least 5 credits (e.g. two 3-credit subjects).

Mature Admission

To be evaluated through the Office of the University Registrar

Applicants must be 20 years of age or older and have been out of full-time high school at least one year by the beginning of the intake term. Applicants must have a minimum overall average of 60 percent, with no course grade lower than 50 percent, in the following high school courses.

1. ELA 30-1 or ELA 30-2
2. One subject from Group A, B or C

Applicants with nine or more post-secondary level credits must also present a minimum Admission Grade Point Average (AGPA) of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.

Additional Admission Criteria

All applicants must meet the following:

1. English Language Proficiency

To be evaluated through the Office of the University Registrar

Applicable to All Admission Categories

All applicants must meet an acceptable level of English language proficiency. We will require official documents such as high school or post-secondary transcripts or proof of successful completion of standardized language evaluation. Full details are available in MacEwan University's academic calendar or online at MacEwan.ca/ELP.

Program of Study

Course	Title	Credits
Term I		
TAST 101	Child and Adolescent Development	3
TAST 107	Students with Exceptionalities - Level I	3
TAST 125	Collaborative Team Practice	3
TAST 128	Assistive and Adaptive Technology	3
Three credits of university English (includes WRIT 101)		3
Credits		15
Term II		
TAST 102	Supporting Classroom Behaviour Management	3
TAST 103	Language Learning and Math Across the Curriculum	3
TAST 114	Specialized Skills and Practice	2
TAST 117	Students With Exceptionalities- Level II	3
TAST 129	Seminar	1
TAST 130	Practicum	3
Credits		15
Total Credits		30

The minimum passing grade for a course at MacEwan University is a D unless otherwise noted next to the appropriate course in the program of study.

Course Substitutions

Credit Earned in:	May Be Substituted for Credit in Program Course:
CYCW 100	TAST 114
CYCW 101	TAST 114
CYCW 108	TAST 114
CYCW 201	TAST 114
CYCW 211	TAST 101
CYCW 360	TAST 114
ECDV 155	TAST 114
ECDV 160	TAST 101
ECDV 255	TAST 107 OR TAST 117
ECDV 280	TAST 114
EDPY 200	TAST 102
EN 100.3	ENGL 111
EN 101	ENGL 111
ENGL 100	ENGL 111
ENGL 101	ENGL 111
ENGL 102	ENGL 111
ENGL 103	ENGL 111
ENGL 105	ENGL 111
ENGL 108	ENGL 111
ENGL 199	ENGL 111
INTD 105	TAST 125
OOSC 200	TAST 114
OOSC 205	TAST 114

PSYC 223	TAST 101
RPPR 117	TAST 114
RPPR 119	TAST 114
SOWK 102 & SOWK 110	TAST 114
TAST 104	TAST 114
TAST 104	TAST 125
THAS 115	TAST 101

Program Regulations

Program Standards

Learners admitted to this program are presumed to be capable of fulfilling the academic requirements of the program with, if applicable, provision of reasonable accommodation. The reasonable accommodation of learners with disabilities shall not require the university to lower its standards, academic or otherwise, nor shall it relieve a learner of the responsibility to develop and demonstrate the essential skills and competencies expected of all learners pursuing this program (policy E3400, Students with Disabilities).

Regulations Governing Work Integrated Learning Activities

Completion of one practicum course is required. Learners must comply with policy C2060 Work Integrated Learning and other applicable policies and regulations of the university and host organization. In accordance with policy C2060, the university reserves the right to remove a learner from the work integrated learning experience at any point in the experience for serious performance issues (i.e., engaging in behavior that places the client and/or others at risk or that is contrary to the professional or safety requirements of the placement). In such cases and with concurrence of the Dean, the learner will be assigned a grade of F in the course. Although the decision may be appealed according to policy E3103 Student Appeals, the learner will not be permitted to remain in the work integrated learning experience during the appeal.

Host organizations may specify additional prerequisite requirements for work integrated learning experiential activities, for example, a current, clear Police Information Check (PIC), current Child Welfare Check or currency of immunization or first aid certification.

Learners whose PIC status changes or who lack other specified additional requirements compromise their ability to complete the program requirements as they may be denied work integrated learning experiences and, therefore, be unable to meet graduation requirements.

Learners are responsible for any costs they incur related to travel to and from and parking at the host site.

Learners acknowledge that, during scheduled course periods, they are expected to attend practicum during the days/hours as outlined in the program and by the host. Learners will be notified of their particular hours prior to the start of the placement. Hours of attendance may vary between host organizations.

Police Information Check

A current, clear police information check with vulnerable sector check is required for practicum placement. This check must be completed no earlier than three months prior to the practicum start date and submitted no later than the document deadline posted by the program (must be received by the program prior to placement). Having a pardon in progress

does not meet the admission requirement for a clear police information check.

Students are responsible for obtaining police information check with vulnerable sector check and for making these available upon request to both the program and the practicum host.

First Aid

First Aid certification may be required by practicum hosts. If so, the student is responsible to obtain and pay for the course/certification.