

## **07. Teaching Students with Disabilities 7-12 Generalist**

### **Standards for Programs Leading to an Initial Certificate**

#### General Education Core in the Liberal Arts and Sciences

*The program shall include a requirement that the candidate complete study that prepares candidates with knowledge, understanding, and skills in the liberal arts and sciences, including but not limited to: artistic expression; communication; information retrieval; concepts in history and social sciences; humanities; a language other than English; scientific and mathematical processes; and written analysis and expression.*

#### Content Core

*The content core shall include a major, concentration, or the equivalent, in one or more of the liberal arts and sciences. Within the course of study, the program shall ensure that the candidate has completed a minimum of six semester hours in each of the following subject areas: mathematics, English language arts, social studies and science and the candidate has sufficient pedagogical skills to teach these subjects. These requirements, in combination with the general education core and pedagogical core, shall ensure that the candidate has a knowledge base for teaching students with disabilities at the adolescence level the State learning standards as prescribed in Part 100 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of NYS.*

Candidates holding the Students with Disabilities Grade 7-12 Generalist certificate must complete six semester hours of study in science, social studies, English language arts and mathematics. They must be prepared to be employed as resource room teachers, consultant teachers, integrated co-teachers or to teach students that receive “alternative assessments”. Therefore, in addition to an understanding of the content of the four subject areas, each candidate must have the pedagogical skills to teach the four subjects, in a supportive role. The program should ensure that each candidate is prepared in both the content and pedagogy of the four subjects.

### **Pedagogical Core**

#### **General requirements**

The program shall include the following:

- (i) human developmental processes and variations, including but not limited to: the impact of culture, heritage, socioeconomic level, personal health and safety, nutrition, past or present abusive or dangerous environment, and factors in the home, school, and community on students' readiness to learn -- and skill in applying that understanding to create a safe and nurturing learning environment that is free of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs and that fosters the health and learning of all students, and the development of a sense of community and respect for one another;
- (ii) learning processes, motivation, communication, and classroom management -- and skill in applying those understandings to stimulate and sustain student interest, cooperation, and achievement to each student's highest level of learning in preparation for productive work, citizenship in a democracy, and continuing growth;
- (iii) means for understanding the needs of students with disabilities, including at least three semester hours of study for teachers to develop the skills necessary to provide instruction that will promote the participation and progress of students with disabilities in the general education curriculum. The three

semester hour requirement shall include study in at least the following areas: the categories of disabilities; identification and remediation of disabilities; the special education process and state and federal special education laws and regulations; effective practices for planning and designing co-teaching and collaboration with peers; individualizing instruction; and applying positive behavioral supports and interventions to address student and classroom management needs. When such requirements cannot be completed in three semester hours, the remaining study requirements may be included in other courses. This three semester hour requirement may be waived at the discretion of the commissioner, upon a showing that the program provides adequate instruction to prepare candidates on understanding the needs of students with disabilities through other means;

(iv) language acquisition and literacy development by native English speakers and students who are English language learners -- and skill in developing the listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills of all students;

(v) curriculum development, instructional planning, and multiple research-validated instructional strategies for teaching students within the full range of abilities -- and skill in designing and offering differentiated instruction that enhances the learning of all students in the content area(s) of the certificate;

(vi) uses of technology, including instructional and assistive technology, in teaching and learning -- and skill in using technology and teaching students to use technology to acquire information, communicate, and enhance learning;

(vii) formal and informal methods of assessing student learning and the means of analyzing one's own teaching practice -- and skill in using information gathered through assessment and analysis to plan or modify instruction, and skill in using various resources to enhance teaching;

(viii) history, philosophy, and role of education, the rights and responsibilities of teachers and other professional staff, students, parents, community members, school administrators, and others with regard to education, and the importance of productive relationships and interactions among the school, home, and community for enhancing student learning -- and skill in fostering effective relationships and interactions to support student growth and learning, including skill in resolving conflicts;

(ix) means to update knowledge and skills in the subject(s) taught and in pedagogy;

(x) means for identifying and reporting suspected child abuse and maltreatment, which shall include at least two clock hours of coursework or training regarding the identification and reporting of suspected child abuse or maltreatment, in accordance with the requirements of section 3004 of the Education Law;

(xi) means for instructing students for the purpose of preventing child abduction, in accordance with Education Law section 803-a; preventing alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse, in accordance with Education Law section 804; providing safety education, in accordance with Education Law section 806; and providing instruction in fire and arson prevention, in accordance with Education Law section 808; and

(xii) means for the prevention of and intervention in school violence, in accordance with section 3004 of the Education Law. This study shall be composed of at least two clock hours of course work or training that includes, but is not limited to, study in the warning signs within a developmental and social context that relate to violence and other troubling behaviors in children; the statutes, regulations and policies relating to a safe nonviolent school climate; effective classroom management techniques and other academic supports that promote a nonviolent school climate and enhance learning; the integration of social and problem solving skill development for students within the regular curriculum; intervention techniques designed to address a school violence situation; and how to participate in an effective school/community referral process for students exhibiting violent behavior.

(xiii) means for the prevention of and intervention in harassment, bullying (including cyberbullying) and discrimination in accordance with section 14 of the Education Law. Such study shall include six clock hours, of which at least three hours must be conducted through face-to-face instruction, of course work or training on the social patterns of harassment, bullying and discrimination, as defined in section 11 of the Education Law, including but not limited to those acts based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex; the identification and mitigation of harassment, bullying and discrimination; and strategies for effectively addressing problems of exclusion, bias and aggression in educational settings.

## **Program-Specific Requirements**

### Coursework

The program shall include the following:

- (i) historical, social, and legal foundations of special education, employment and independence for individuals with disabilities;
- (ii) characteristics of learners with disabilities;
- (iii) managing behavior of students with disabilities and promoting development of positive social interaction skills;
- (iv) participating in collaborative partnerships for the benefit of students with disabilities, including family strengthening partnerships;
- (v) assessment, diagnosis, and evaluation of students with disabilities;
- (vi) curriculum development and research-validated methods of instructing students with disabilities, including methods of teaching reading and mathematics and methods of enrichment and remediation in reading and mathematics;
- (vii) at least six semester hours of study in teaching the literacy skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing to native English speakers and students who are English language learners. This six-semester-hour requirement may be waived upon a showing of good cause satisfactory to the Commissioner, including but not limited to a showing that the program provides adequate instruction in language acquisition and literacy development through other means;
- (viii) use of assistive and instructional technology in the teaching of and learning by students with disabilities;
- (ix) understanding the needs of students with autism, including, but not limited to, the etiology, prevalence, characteristics, and evidence-based instructional methodology for teaching students with autism, instructional design and supports to promote communication and socialization skills and skill generalization and maintenance; positive behavioral supports, functional behavioral assessments and behavioral intervention plans; collaboration between the home, class, school and community to ensure that students are supported in the general education environment; and knowledge of resources such as early childhood supports, respite care, state agencies, transition services and vocational rehabilitation services and parent support networks and associations that are available to support students and families;
- (x) planning and managing teaching and learning environments for individuals with disabilities, including planning for and supporting students with disabilities in general education settings; and
- (xi) study in the process of growth and development in adolescence and how to provide learning experience and conduct assessments reflecting understanding of those processes.

### Field experiences, student teaching and practica

The program shall include:

- at least 100 clock hours of field experiences with students with disabilities related to coursework prior to student teaching or practica

The program shall also include:

- at least two college-supervised student-teaching experiences with students with disabilities of at least 20 school days each in the following settings; grades 7 through 9 and grades 10 through 12
- at least one college-supervised student-teaching experience with students with disabilities of at least 40 school days, provided that:
  1. the combined field experiences and student teaching with students with disabilities shall include both adolescent education settings, grades 7 through 9 and grades 10 through 12; and
  2. the mentoring teacher of record at the school or school district where the student teacher is placed holds a certificate in the certificate title or in a closely related area; and is designated by the school or district as a teacher mentor or coach or is rated effective or highly effective in their most recent annual professional performance review conducted pursuant to section 3012-c of the Education Law or holds a national board certificate.

The program shall ensure the field experiences and student teaching with students with disabilities shall cover both adolescent education settings, grades 7 through 9 and grades 10 through 12.

For candidates holding another classroom teaching certificate or for candidates who are simultaneously preparing for another classroom teaching certificate and completing the full field experience for that other certificate, the program shall require such candidates to complete at least 50 clock hours of field experience and at least 20 days of practica or student teaching with students with disabilities in adolescent education, including grades 7 through 9 and grades 10 through 12