

# GCERT Special Ed PreK-12 Teach Lic Graduate Certificate in Special Education PreK-12 Teacher Licensure

Under Review | Fall 2026

## Proposal Information

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### Workflow Status

In Progress

### Faculty Senate Approval, Faculty Senate

Waiting for Approval | Faculty Senate Approval

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Nancy Middlebrook

Theresa Sherman

## Proposal Information

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### Sponsoring faculty/staff member

Sarah Vogt

### Sponsoring faculty/staff email

svogt@unm.edu

### College

College of Education & Human  
Sciences

### Department

Special Education

### Campus

Main Campus

# Effective Term and Year

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## Proposed Effective Term and Year

Fall 2026

## Justification

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### Program Justification

The Graduate Certificate in Special Education PreK-12 Licensure (SPCD Licensure GCERT) is designed for individuals with at least a baccalaureate degree to pursue a New Mexico teaching license in Special Education at the PreK-12 grade levels. These include recent graduates from related fields (e.g., Liberal Arts, Global Languages, STEM), career changers who are now interested in teaching, and general educators who want to be licensed to teach students with disabilities.

New Mexico continues to have an extreme teacher shortage, with 737 teacher vacancies in October 2024. Nearly 40% of those vacancies are in the area of special education (Southwest Outreach Academic Research Evaluation & Policy Center, 2024). Half of these vacancies are in Albuquerque Public Schools. This is the highest rate of teacher vacancy in the state, and it has been endemic for the past three years. The SPCD Licensure GCERT enables the UNM Special Education Department to recruit additional candidates to help address state-identified needs for special education teachers. These students can complete this certificate and licensure requirements in as few as three semesters (fall, spring, summer), thus assisting to alleviate the severe shortage of special education teachers in New Mexico.

Currently, our students can complete the 21-hour licensure coursework as part of their MA in Special Education. However, many students complete the licensure requirements but do not complete the MA, thus being counted as non-completers. The proposed SPCD Licensure GCERT addresses this issue by providing a licensure-only option that allows students to have their licensure program completion appear on their transcripts.

## Program Category and Level

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<b>Program Category</b> Certificate	<b>Program Level</b> Graduate	<b>Degree, Minor, or Certificate Name</b> Graduate Certificate in Special Education PreK-12 Teacher Licensure
<b>Certificate or Degree Type</b> Certificate (graduate)		
<b>Degree/Certificate Level</b> Graduate Certificate	<b>Proposed CIP Code</b> ⓘ 13.1001	<b>Proposed CIP Title</b> ⓘ Special Education and Teaching, General
<b>Is this program also offered online?</b> Yes	<b>Format(s)</b> Partially online	<b>AOP MOU</b>

## New program courses

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### Composition of new program

Existing courses	Revised courses	New Courses	Total Credits
21			21

## New Degrees/Certificates Only

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### Pre-proposal Executive Summary

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- GCERT SPCD PreK-12 Licensure Summary.pdf

### Program Duplication

Consulted with Director of Licensure in COEHS and the department chair in Special Education. Confirmed that there are no duplicate graduate certificate programs in Special Education PreK-12 Teacher Licensure. See email dated 5/2/25

### Correspondence

- Special Education GCert Communication 5.2.25.pdf

### Pre-proposal Approved?

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### Associate Provost Memo

- Graduate Certificate in Special Education PreK-12 Licensure\_PC\_10\_2\_25.pdf

### Proposal File Upload

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- GCERT SPCD PreK-12 Licensure Full Proposal.pdf

## HED Submission Documents

- GCERT SPCD PreK-12 Licensure Application (1).pdf

## File Uploads

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### Document uploads

## Associated Quali Forms

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Select any associated course forms that exist

Select any associated program forms that exist

## Catalog Information

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### Program Description

The SPCD Licensure GCERT aims to prepare competent, professional special education teachers with the knowledge and skills to provide high-quality, evidence-based instructional and behavioral practices for PreK-12 students with a wide range of disabilities. The 21-credit-hours GCERT includes coursework in key areas that align with professional standards in initial teacher preparation: Foundational Skills (3 credits), Classroom Management & Behavior (3 credits), Curriculum & Instruction (3 credits), Assessment (3 credits), Reading Instruction (6 credits), and Practicum/Field Experience (3 credits).

### Admissions Requirements

### Graduation Requirements

#### Graduation Requirements for Graduate Certificate in Special Education PreK-12 Licensure Program

1. Complete all required licensure courses with a 3.0 or higher GPA.
2. Pass the COEHS Licensure Portfolio with a score of Applying, or make provisions with the faculty advisor for alternate licensure options, if applicable.

## Professional Credential/Licensure Program Information

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### License/Certification associated with program

Yes

### Licensure Information

Pre-licensure

### Licensure requirements met in the following states:

New Mexico

Licensure requirements not met in the following states:

Licensure requirements undetermined in the following states:

For each state selected, is there a state or regional licensing board that oversees Professional Licensure?

Yes

**State or Regional Licensure Information**

NMPED Special Education License:

<https://web.ped.nm.gov/bureaus/licensure/licensure-requirements/special-education-pre-k-12/>

NMPED Alternative Educator Prep Program Requirements:

<https://web.ped.nm.gov/bureaus/licensure/alternative-licensure-program-opportunities/alternative-educator-prep-program/>

**National licensing board**

No

**Professional Credential or Licensure Description**

**Professional Accrediting Bodies**

## Concentrations

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**Program Concentrations**

**Code**

**Title**

**Concentration Required**

No

## Certificate Information

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**Certificate Requirements**

- Complete all of the following
  - Complete the following:
    - SPCD501 - The Psychology and Education of Exceptional Persons (3)
  - Complete at least 1 of the following:
    - SPCD552 - Teaching Students with Intellectual Disability and Severe Disabilities (3)
    - SPCD503 - Instructional and Curriculum Design for Exceptionalities (3)
  - Complete at least 1 of the following:

- SPCD527 - Assessment for Diverse Exceptional Learners: Intellectual Disability and Severe Disabilities (3)
    - SPCD517 - Assessment of Diverse Students with Learning and Behavior Exceptionalities (3)
  - Complete at least 2 of the following:
    - SPCD586 - Differentiating Reading Instruction in Inclusive Settings for Students with ID (3)
    - SPCD587 - Reading Methods for Students with Intellectual or Severe Disability (3)
    - SPCD509 - Adolescent Reading Instruction for Students with Behavioral and Learning Exceptionalities (3)
    - SPCD514 - Teaching Reading to Students with Learning and Behavior Exceptionalities (3)
  - Complete at least 1 of the following:
    - SPCD518 - Classroom Organization and Positive Behavioral Supports (3)
    - SPCD572 - Behavior Assessment and Intervention II (3)
  - Earn at least 3 credits from the following:
    - SPCD504 - Practicum in Special Education (1 - 6)
  - Must earn a B or higher in SPCD 504.
  - All above courses selected in consultation with advisor.

**Portfolio Requirement**

- Pass the COEHS Licensure Portfolio with a score of Applying, or make provisions with the faculty advisor for alternate licensure options, if applicable.

## Grand Total Credits: 21

### Registrar Office Only

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<b>CM Program Code</b>	<b>BANP</b>	<b>Banner Program Code</b>	<b>Major Code</b>
GCERT Special Ed PreK-12 Teach Lic			
<b>Online Program Code</b>	<b>Online Major Code</b>	<b>Pre-major Program Code</b>	<b>Pre-major Major Code</b>
<b>CIP Code</b>	<b>Concentration Inheritance</b>		
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<b>Catalog</b>	<b>Catalog Activation Date</b>		
<b>Notes</b>			