

Inclusive Education (Special Education) Graduate Diploma

Program Length:

16 Months

The Program

This program incorporates a blended online and face to face model. Generally classes meet on campus in Nanaimo during Intersession and online during the fall and spring semesters. Students will have some required courses, as well as some electives. This program will not be cohort based. Students will be able to enroll at any start of a semester and will be able to select courses as they go.

VIU's Inclusive Education (Special Education) Graduate Diploma embodies an innovative approach to the field of Inclusive Education. Grounded in current research and evidence-based practices, our program challenges each educator to critically examine historical and contemporary Inclusive Education policies and approaches to formulate a best practice specific to her/his own context. Faculty bring their expert knowledge and extensive experiences to guide, support and maximize student learning in each part of the program.

The 30 credit program is nested in four frames of reference:

1. **Context for Development and Learning:** Students consider the context for development and learning including characteristics of the individual with special needs; issues such as social context, cultural perspectives, poverty, and mental and social health; and implications of research.
2. **Informative Assessment:** Students focus on the purposes, processes, and implications of assessment information.
3. **Responsive Teaching:** Students demonstrate the ability to develop, implement, and evaluate an Individual Education Plan (IEP) in consultation with classroom teacher(s), parents, students, and district and community resource personnel for students with a variety of special needs.
4. **Re-imagining Inclusive Education:** Students think beyond current practices and examine critical issues in the field of Inclusive Education that impact children with special needs and their families in order to re-imagine the field of Inclusive Education.

Graduates of the program will command content knowledge, develop skill-specific competencies and acquire relevant experiences prescribed by the BC Ministry of Education for Inclusive Education specialist teachers.

The Inclusive Education (Special Education) Graduate Diploma program is offered as a flexible model for practicing teachers. Continuous intake is available for students. Students will be able to complete courses from this graduate diploma at their own pace, and once completed will be eligible to ladder on to the Master in Education in Special Education where they will complete three more courses in order to qualify for a Master in Education in Special Education degree.

Program Outline

Year 1	Credits
Fall Semester	
GDSE 620 - (Introduction to Inclusive Education (Special Education))	3
GDSE 585 - (Collaborative Planning for Student Success)	3
Option A elective: (or take electives in Intersession below)	
GDSE 587 - (Developing Functional Curricula) (year long)	6
Spring Semester	
GDSE 583 - (Social and Emotional Development)	3
GDSE 594 - (Learning Disabilities)	3
Option A electives: (or take electives in Intersession below)	
GDSE 587 - (Developing Functional Curricula) (year long)	6
Intersession (April/June)	
GDSE 591 - (Literacy and Numeracy in Inclusive Education)	3
Option B electives: One of the following:	
GDSE 586 - (Gifted Learners Investigation of Practice)	
GDSE 588 - (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders: Investigation of Practice)	3
GDSE 595 - (Working with High Risk, Marginalized and Vulnerable Youth)	
GDSE 593 - (Planning for Inclusion: Differentiation)	
Intersession (July/August)	
GDSE 584 - (Assistive Technology and UDL: Foundations & Exemplary Practices)	3
Option B electives: One of the following:	
GDSE 589 - (Autism Spectrum Disorders: Investigation of Practice)	3
GDSE 590 - (Conference Related Special Project)	
Total Credits	24

Year 2	Credits
Fall Semester	
GDSE 592 - (Individual Assessment and Intervention Planning)	3
Total Credits	6
Program Total Credits	30

Completion Requirements

Grading Policy

Grades for individual courses are given in the manner described under the Grading Policy of this Calendar. The program has minimum standards as follows:
A minimum of a B grade is required in all courses.

Admission Requirements

- Completion of a Bachelor's degree with a cumulative grade point average of "B" in the last sixty credits.
- A resume outlining teaching experience (two years preferred).

Recommendations for Admission

A minimum of two years of successful teaching is recommended.

Notes on Admission

- Students who meet or exceed the minimum admission requirements may not necessarily be admitted to the program.

Transfer From Other Institutions

Applicants may apply to the Program Coordinator for possible transfer credits from other accredited Graduate programs.

Career Opportunities

Domestic graduates of this program will be well-poised to assume Inclusive Education positions at the school and district level. School districts in British Columbia report great difficulty in recruiting qualified Inclusive Education teachers.

Start Date and Application Deadline

As this course offers continuous intake, applications including submission of all official documents must be received by one month prior to the beginning of each semester. For more information contact the Education Department at 1-888-920-2221 local 6221.

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