



Dear School Administrators,

Southwest Minnesota State University is very excited to share with you that we have SPED, TESL, and ELED Residency teacher licensure programs. We admit new cohorts of candidates each fall and encourage you to include any potential candidates who are working as paraprofessionals in your districts. Here are the main things to know about these programs:

- 1) Candidates are working toward their bachelor's degree and licensure in one of 3 areas:
 - a. SPED-ABS licensure which allows special education teachers to work with students with special needs in the areas of autism (ASD), learning disabilities (LD), emotional/behavioral disorders (EBD), developmental disabilities (DD), and other health impairments (OHD) at the mild-to-moderate levels.
 - b. TESL licensure which allows teachers to work with English learners/multilingual learners in K-12.
 - c. ELED licensure which allows teachers to work with K-6 elementary learners.
- 2) The programs are offered in a fully online format.
- 3) Candidates must meet the following qualifications:
 - a. Have completed an A.A. degree and/or the MnTC goal areas or a previous bachelor's degree from an accredited institution;
 - b. Currently working as a paraprofessional;
 - c. Signed Administrative Consent to Participate in the Program (form provided)
 - d. Required application and signatures must be submitted by August 1 prior to fall enrollment.

We have found that several of the candidates may apply without having the MnTC goal areas completed. This means that they likely have general education courses yet to take to earn a bachelor's degree. If you have paraprofessionals in this position, we would be able to assist candidates in the completion of the MnTC requirements prior to enrolling them into the program. These programs are designed for working paraprofessionals. Candidates would work through the residency program over the course of three years, including student teaching. Candidates will need to meet requirements for admission to SMSU's Teacher Preparation Program by the end of the first year of courses. Please reference the SMSU School of Education website for the most current admission requirements.

Candidates can continue in their positions while taking coursework and during student teaching; student teaching is a year-long mentorship for half days and can be completed in the district/buildings where they are employed if the necessary grade bands and settings can be met. Candidates will need some flexibility in their positions to complete field experiences in the PELSB required grade bands (K-4, 5-8, & 9-12) for their coursework and during student teaching. Ideally, candidates will be assigned paraprofessional duties in classrooms that correspond with the clinical experiences needed for the semester. This allows for the paraprofessional to complete the needed clinical experiences with minimal disruptions to their paraprofessional duties.

All clinical experiences will need to be fulfilled under the supervision of a Tier 3 or 4 licensed educator. The required field experiences along with grade bands requirements are listed on the following pages, along with an Administrative Consent Form for your paraprofessionals to enroll in the program.

If you have candidates interested in being part of this innovative program, here are their next steps:

- 1) Have open discussions as to whether the program is the right fit for the candidate and your district.
- 2) The candidate should complete the e-form application on the SMSU School of Education website.
- 3) Attach the Administrative Consent Form to the application and keep a copy for your records.
- 4) Support the candidate through flexible scheduling to complete required clinical experiences.

SPED Residency Program Field Experiences
See Advising Guide for Additional Required Courses

Course	Hours Required	Grade Band Required
ED 101: Introduction to Education & LAB	15	K-12 General Education
SPED 290: Introduction to Special Needs & LAB	15	K-12 Special Education
ED 403: English Language Arts Methods & LAB	8	Work with one child general education
ED 402: Early Literacy and Linguistics & LAB	15	K-3 General Education
ED 424: Elementary Mathematics Methods & LAB	15	Grades 4-6 General Education
ED 404: Literacy Methods and LAB	15	K-1 General Education
TESL 431: Foundations of Teaching ESL & LAB	15	K-12
SPED 459L: Pre-student Teaching Experience	10 days	5-8 Special Education
SPED 440: Assessment & Educational Planning & LAB	30	5-8 Special Education
SPED 460: Positive Behavior Support in Special Education	10	K-12 Special Education
SPED 468: Para-to-Sped 1st Half Student Teaching	Fall ½ days	K-4 or 9-12
SPED 469: Para-to-Sped 2nd Half Student Teaching	Spring ½ days	9-12 or K-4 (opposite of 1st Half ST experience)

As SPED-ABS works with students identified as mild-to-moderate, a setting IV or above will **not** be accepted for field experiences or student teaching. Candidates will need some flexibility in their positions in order to complete field experiences in the PELSB required grade bands (K-4, 5-8, & 9-12) for their coursework and during student teaching.

***NOTE-this list does not include additional required courses without field experiences**

Teach English as a Second Language (TESL) Teacher
TESL Residency Program Field Experiences
See Advising Guide for Additional Required Courses

Course	Hours Required	Grade Band Required
ED 101: Introduction to Education & LAB	15	K-12 General Education
SPED 290: Introduction to Special Needs & LAB	15	K-6 Special Education
ED 403: English Language Arts Methods & LAB	8	Work with one child general education
ED 402: Early Literacy and Linguistics & LAB	15	K-2 General Education
ED 424: Elementary Mathematics Methods & LAB	15	Grades 4-6 General Education
ED 404: Literacy Methods & LAB	15	Grades 4-6 General Education
TESL 431: Foundations of ESL & LAB	15	Grades K-12 ESL
TESL 435: TESL Methods & LAB	15	Grades 5-8 ESL
TESL 459L: Pre-student Teaching Experience	10 days	Grades 5-8 ESL
TESL 468: Para-to-TESL 1st Half Student Teaching	Fall ½ days	K-4 &/or 9-12 ESL
TESL 469: Para-to-TESL 2nd Half Student Teaching	Spring ½ days	K-4 &/or 9-12 ESL (opposite of 1st Half ST experience)

***NOTE-this list does not include additional required courses without field experiences**

Elementary Education Teacher
ELED Residency Program Field Experiences
See Advising Guide for Additional Required Courses

Course	Hours Required	Grade Band Required
ED 101: Introduction to Education & LAB	15	K-12 General Education
SPED 290: Introduction to Special Needs & LAB	15	K-12 Special Education
TESL 431: Foundations of ESL & LAB	15	Grades K-6 ESL
ED 403: English Language Arts Methods & LAB	8	Work with one child general education
ED 418: Kindergarten Methods & LAB	15	Kindergarten
ED 402: Early Literacy and Linguistics a& LAB	15	K-2 General Education
ED 424: Elementary Mathematics Methods & LAB	15	Grades 4-6 General Education
ED 404: Literacy Methods & LAB	15	Grades 4-6 General Education
ED 425: Elementary Science Methods & LAB	15	Grades K-6
ED 426: Elementary Social Studies Methods & LAB	15	Grades K-6
ED 459L: Pre-student Teaching Experience	10 days	Grades 4-6
ED 460: Para-to-ELED 1st Half Student Teaching	Fall ½ days	Grades K-6
ED 470: Para-to-ELED 2nd Half Student Teaching	Spring ½ days	Grades K-6

***NOTE-this list does not include additional required courses without field experiences**

As the District Administrator and Building Administrator of the school where the candidate works as a paraprofessional, we agree to support the enrolled candidate in the SMSU Special Education, Teaching Multilingual Learners, or Elementary Education Residency Program. We acknowledge the field placement hours and requirements necessary for the candidate to complete the program. We understand and agree the paraprofessional will complete the hours in the district where they are employed. These hours will need to be completed in the required grade bands and settings, and the paraprofessional may need to be placed outside of their assigned work placement and/or duties. For the SPED Residency program, we understand that a school Setting IV may not meet these requirements, and the paraprofessional may need to be placed outside of their assigned work placement and/or duties.

- ☐ SPED Residency
- ☐ TESL Residency
- ☐ ELED Residency

Candidate Name

email address

Mustang ID#

School District Name

District Office Phone Number

Semester Starting Program

District Administrator Printed Name and Title

District Administrator Signature

Date

Building Administrator Printed Name and Title

Building Administrator Signature

Date

Candidates should contact their advisor to confirm qualifications and submit an application to the program.

Administration/Candidate

- ★ Keep a copy of this form for your records.
- ★ It is the paraprofessional's job to communicate with their school/district administrators which clinical experiences they are registered for each semester to plan for the upcoming semester.

Who can I contact for more information?

Rebecca Panka: Director of Clinical Experiences in Education (rebecca.panka@smsu.edu)

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Dr. Sonya Vierstraete: Chair, School of Education (Sonya.Vierstraete@smsu.edu)