



ST. BONAVENTURE UNIVERSITY

Founded 1858

SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

St. Bonaventure University
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MSED in Differentiated Instruction – Students with Disabilities

Program Director: Dr. René Hauser

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PURPOSE OF THE DEGREE*

This degree is designed for elementary and/or secondary teachers who wish to specialize in inclusion of the full range of students with exceptionalities in general education classrooms. (Students with exceptionalities refers both to those with special gifts and talents and those with disabilities.)

Extended research-based knowledge is provided in the areas of assessment, differentiated instructional strategies, behavioral strategies, collaborative teamwork, assistive technology, and other inclusive education issues for the target students. This degree has been designed in response to the need for teachers skilled in differentiated instruction strategies appropriate to the growing population of learners who are diverse in their learning and/or behavioral characteristics.

*For information about our Post-Master's Program in Differentiated Instruction, contact the program director.

INFORMATION ABOUT CERTIFICATION

New York: The degree in Differentiated Instruction – SWD requires candidates to have met all requirements for their first teaching certificate prior to admission; it is not a path to initial certification. However, the degree in Differentiated Instruction – SWD *does* meet the master's degree requirements for and may be used toward professional (or permanent) teacher certification in the state of New York. The degree also meets the requirements for a certification extension-Gifted Education as well as Students with Disabilities certification. Candidates entering with certification in Students with Disabilities may get an additional certification at another developmental level (Birth -2, 1-6, or 7-12 generalist).

Pennsylvania: This degree can be used toward Instructional II certification.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS*

Admission to this degree program is based on:

1. Official transcripts of all prior college work (3.00 GPA out of 4.00 is the working standard)
2. Valid teaching certificate
3. Two letters of recommendation
4. Interview
5. Writing sample (taken at time of interview)
6. GRE or MAT score

*State law requires SBU to collect immunization records from students taking six or more credit hours in any semester.

LOCATIONS

This program is offered in Olean and at the Buffalo Center at Hilbert College in Hamburg; it may be completed in as little as 18 months.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS* (33 CREDITS)

EDUC 500	Research and Inquiry Tools for Education Professions
EDUC 505	Technology for the Education Professions <i>(offered at SBU campus only)</i>
DIFF 503	Assessment of Students with Exceptionalities
DIFF 504	Communication and Collaboration Skills for Standards-based Differentiated Instruction
DIFF 506	Language, Literacy and Communication for Students with Exceptionalities
DIFF 510	Differentiated Instructional Strategies
DIFF 511	Foundations of Inclusive Education
DIFF 512	Advanced Behavioral Strategies
DIFF 515	Assistive Technology
DIFF 590	Extended Practicum for Graduate Education – Students with Disabilities
DIFF 598	Contemporary Field Research and Practicum in Standard-based Differentiated Instruction

*For course descriptions, go to www.sbu.edu/graduate and click on the Graduate Catalog link on the lower right.

FIELD-EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS

St. Bonaventure's teacher preparation programs are extensively field-based, and students should expect field-based projects on a routine basis in DIFF courses. If needed, the Office of Field Services can assist students in arranging field placements for these projects. Also, in this degree program students are expected to complete a practicum experience of 50 clock hours teaching students who learn at a pace and level significantly different from that of their classmates (students with special gifts and talents).

Additionally, students are expected to complete a 250-hour extended practicum working along with a certified special education teacher teaching students who are identified as having disabilities. Both practica take place during regular school hours, near the end of the program, and must be approved by the advisor and the Office of Field Services in advance (by mid-semester prior to the beginning of the field experience).

EXIT CRITERIA

In order to be awarded the degree in Differentiated Instruction, a student will be evaluated on the following exit criteria:

1. A cumulative GPA of at least 3.0
2. Successful completion of the internships
3. Submission of a portfolio showing professional growth, accomplishments
4. Successful completion of the comprehensive examination