

DO YOU WANT TO BE AN EDUCATION SPECIALIST?

NEW! PARA-ED PATHWAY

- **Designed for you!** Uniquely designed for instructional aides/assistants/paraeducators interested in becoming fully credentialed teachers (*excludes 1 on 1 paraeducator*).
- **Keep on teaching! Keep on working!** Create your own online or hybrid schedule to make time for your goals **and** your busy life
- **Choose your own specialization and placement!**
 - *Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE):* Credential students work in preschool, TK, or K.
 - *Mild to Moderate Support Needs (MMSN) & Extensive Support Needs (ESN):* First semester credential students work in an elementary setting. Second semester credential students may work in elementary, middle, secondary, or adult education.
- **Clinical Practice?** Complete clinical practice while working as instructional aides/assistants/ paraeducators.

FAQS

- Q: Would changes in paraeducator positions or school sites impact a candidate's ability to complete student teaching?
 - A: Yes. Please inquire with our Fieldwork Coordinator.
- Q: Can one-on-one paraeducators complete student teaching hours during their work hours?
 - A: Unfortunately, no but let us know your situation so we can help with to consider options.
- Q: Does it matter where I work?
 - A: Paraeducators must work in the program for which they are seeking credentialing.
- Q: How do I get approval?
 - A: Our fieldwork coordinator can work with you, school administrators and district human resources to help seek approval.



FIND OUT MORE

To obtain more information, please email sped1@fullerton.edu

CSUF

Special Education

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

For further criteria and information, scan the QR code below:



Dear _____ School District,
insert district name

CSUF teacher candidate, _____ ^{*student name*} is requesting to complete clinical practice while working as an instructional assistant/paraeducator. Further, if the paraeducator is a one-on-one paraeducator, they will not be able to complete their student teaching hours/assignments during the hours they work as a paraeducator. Applicable to MMSN & ESN only: If the candidate is a first semester student, they have to work as a Paraeducator with students with disabilities in an elementary school. If the candidate is a second semester student, they may work with students with disabilities in elementary, middle, secondary, or adult education. Applicable to ECSE only: You may be working as a paraeducator in a program for children with disabilities from birth through kindergarten.

In order to approve this arrangement, we must have a MOU for student teaching with your district. Additionally, we need several items from your district. We need:

1. The position title and job description the teaching candidate is working in. Please list the title of the position here and attach the job description to this document when returned:
2. We need to know the grade level, hours the teaching candidate is currently working as a paraeducator, and the classification of the paraeducator position (ECSE, MMSN, or ESN). Please provide the following information:
 - a. Grade level: _____
 - b. Hours: _____
 - c. Classification of the paraeducator position: _____
 - d. **The teaching candidate will work before/after their paraeducator hours (mirroring the Mentor Teacher hours) to obtain their necessary student teaching hours if their Mentor Teacher agrees.*
3. A signature below (second page) that the district agrees to provide all of the items below to the candidate to meet CTC requirements:
 - a. The school site will provide the following below (Please Initial Each):
 - _____ ▪ multiple opportunities for candidates to learn, apply, and reflect on the teaching performance expectations.
 - _____ ▪ experiences and/or interactions that reflect the full diversity of grades/ages, federal disability categories and the continuum of special education services outlined in the specific credential authorization.
 - _____ ▪ experiences in general education, experiences with parents and families, and experiences with a broad range of service delivery which the candidate works toward assuming full responsibility for the provision of services in the specific credential authorization.
 - _____ ▪ experiences that are of sufficient duration for the candidate to demonstrate the teaching performance expectations for Education Specialist teachers.
 - _____ ▪ opportunities for candidates to observe a variety of classrooms and settings and to select focus students for deeper observational study, including students who are dual language learners and who may (a) exhibit typical behavior; (b) exhibit atypical behavior; and (c) have other types of special learning needs.
 - _____ ▪ opportunities for candidates to observe teachers using productive routines and effective transitions for students' academic and socio-emotional growth and development.
 - _____ ▪ opportunities to review the curriculum and to further develop pedagogical knowledge of high leverage practices in subject matter areas, including early language and literacy for first and second language learners, mathematics, science, technology, engineering, social studies, and arts as appropriate.
 - _____ ▪ opportunities to observe the administration of a range of assessments.
 - _____ ▪ opportunities to engage in assessments and utilize results to lesson plan and provide instruction.

- _____ ▪ opportunities to co-plan, co-teach or in general education and special education settings.
 - _____ ▪ opportunities to engage in IFSP/IEP preparation and attend IFSP/ IEP meetings.
 - _____ ▪ opportunities to collaborate with designated instructional support (DIS) providers.
- b. A district-employed mentor teacher will be assigned to the candidate and will provide support and guidance to the candidate for at least 5 hours per week.
- c. The district-employed mentor teacher must:
- hold a Clear Education Specialist Credential for which they are providing supervision and having a minimum of three years of birth through age 22 teaching experience.
 - have demonstrated exemplary teaching practices as determined by the employer and the preparation program.
- d. The district-employed mentor teacher agrees to:
- complete a minimum of 10 hours of initial orientation to the program curriculum, adult learning theory, and current content - specific pedagogical and instructional practices, as well as to effective supervision approaches such as cognitive coaching.
 - monitor and support candidates during their progress towards meeting and mastering the TPEs and completing the TPA/LPAs.
 - provide evidence regarding that candidate progress and performance is used to guide advisement and assistance efforts.
 - assess candidates' performance in relation to the TPEs and provide formative and timely performance feedback regarding candidates' progress toward mastering the TPEs.

California State University, Fullerton agrees to the following:

- Support the candidate by providing a university employed clinical coach.
- Conduct six formal observations
- Check-in with mentor teacher and candidate

If the candidate is transferred to another paraeducator position or school site, it may result in the candidate no longer being able to complete their student teaching while they work as a paraeducator. It is the students' responsibility to notify CSUF's Special Education Department of any changes to their paraeducator position. Further, if the paraeducator is a one-on-one paraeducator, they will not be able to complete their student teaching hours/assignments during the hours they work as a paraeducator. Lastly, this agreement must be signed and received by the Department of Special Education at least one week prior to the start of the semester.

If the district agrees to the above and is able to verify that the student is in a position to obtain these outlined experiences, we kindly request signatures below. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Thank you,
 CSUF Department of Special Education Fieldwork Coordinator

Please sign acknowledging these experiences & the hour requirement can be provided for this candidate.

Student Name/Signature

Date

Mentor Teacher Name/Signature

Date

Site Administrator Name/Signature

Date

*District Human Resources
 Representative Name/Signature*

Date