

FAQ Summer Endorsement for SPED

What are program eligibility requirements?

Applicants must hold a bachelor's degree and current Washington State certification.

When/Where are courses offered?

All coursework is held online at a set time each day. Students will not be required to attend PLU facilities, unless desired or meeting with faculty. The schedule has been developed to allow working professionals to maintain employment while pursuing additional credentials. Pacific Lutheran University has partnered with Blackboard Illuminate as our online platform.

Is a program schedule available?

The final schedule is anticipated by April, but a tentative schedule is available by clicking below: [SPED Summer Program](#).

When must I submit my program application?

Priority consideration is given to candidates who apply before April 1; however, applications will be accepted until May 1st. After May 1st, candidates will be reviewed on a space-available basis.

What is the successful application process?

Step 1: Complete the [online application](#) form

Step 2: Mail the accompanying paper [application materials](#) to PLU

Step 3: Complete phone interview

Step 4: Offer of admission

Step 5: Register for classes

Step 6: Attend program orientation. *Orientation date pending.*

When will I know if I have been accepted into the program?

Upon receiving your online application you will receive a confirmation email from PLU's Professional Development Office. Once your accompanying paper application materials arrive, you will then receive a second confirmation email. Upon successful program eligibility, you will then be contacted for a phone interview. Finally, after the phone interview, an admissions decision will be communicated via e-mail.

When do I register for coursework?

Candidates may register for coursework after admission has been granted. Summer registration occurs as early as mid-April through the start of the term.

When and where does fieldwork occur?

For **Special Education** candidates, fieldwork will occur in the Tacoma School District, within the Extended Schools Year (ESY) program. The schedule is tentative, set for July 1 - July 31. Candidates are expected to be on-site teacher hours from approximately 8:45am-12:30pm, Monday - Thursday. Wednesday afternoons will include a Reflective Seminar after fieldwork.

For Special Education candidates unable to complete the Tacoma ESY program, an alternative placement will be attempted to be secured for the following fall. Candidates in this domain will be required to



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identify a possible host classroom, complete a student teaching application upon admission, and spend one full month in fieldwork to complete program requirements.

What is a Pedagogy Assessment?

The Pedagogy Assessment is the final evaluation rubric to successfully complete fieldwork. Candidates will become familiar with the Pedagogy Assessment during field experience under the guidance of their assigned PLU field supervisor.

When does the Pedagogy Assessment occur?

The Pedagogy assessment requires a minimum of two observations by a university Field Supervisor. These two observations occur near the end of the field experience.

What is the West-E?

The West-E is Washington's educator skill assessment, required in the process to add an endorsement. The assessment is based on Washington state endorsement competencies and must be passed before earning the endorsement. Many resources are available online for candidates including a free practice test and a video on how to prepare.

When must I complete the West-E to earn the endorsement?

Candidates are encouraged to begin reviewing test materials and registration dates as early as possible on the WEST website. In order to complete program requirements, candidates MUST successfully pass the West-E subject test prior to be recommended for licensure at the end of their program. Candidates are strongly encouraged to begin looking at West-E tests dates now.

How much does the program cost?

Program Application	\$40
Coursework/Fieldwork	\$5,750
OPSI Fee	\$48
West-E test	\$120
<u>Textbooks:</u>	<u>Varies by instructor</u>
TOTAL COSTS:	\$5,958

How am I billed?

Financial aid is not available for this program, as adding an endorsement is not considered a degree. Student may utilize a variety of payment options including in -person, mail, phone, online, or wire.