

## FAQ Summer Endorsement for SPED

### **When/Where are courses offered?**

All coursework is held online at a set time each day. With the exception of new student orientation, students will not be required to attend PLU facilities unless they are meeting with faculty. The course 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.

### **Who can I expect to be in the courses alongside me?**

SPED courses are filled with students from a multitude of experiences and degree backgrounds. Students will have completed or will be working toward their Bachelors of Arts in Education or their Masters of Arts in Education degree, and we have a mix of current professionals adding the endorsement to their current certificate. In all, experiences range from pre-service teachers to seasoned professionals.

### **Is a program schedule available?**

Yes! A tentative schedule has been included on the website.

### **When must I submit my program application?**

We highly encourage applicants to submit their materials as soon as possible; space is based on a first-come, first-served basis and fills fast. Priority consideration is given to candidates who apply before March 1; however, applications will be accepted until May 1<sup>st</sup>. After May 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 a skype interview

**Step 4:** Offer of admission

**Step 5:** Register for classes

**Step 6:** Attend program orientation. *Orientation date tentatively set for Thursday, May 7 at 5pm .*

### **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 an interview. Finally, after the 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 current PLU students in the BAE or MAE program, fieldwork is integrated into your program and does not occur during the summer.

For add-on endorsement (WA state certified teachers) candidates, fieldwork will occur in the Tacoma or Bethel 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.

**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 middle and 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	\$135
Textbooks:	<u>Varies by instructor</u>
<b>TOTAL COSTS:</b>	<b>\$5,971</b>

**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.

- SPED 912: Team Building & Collaboration
- SPED 910: Foundations, Assessment, Evaluation
- SPED 914: Procedures for Students with Mild Disabilities
- SPED 915: Procedures for Students with Behavioral Disabilities

- Gentile
- Williams
- Reisberg
- Williams



PACIFIC  
LUTHERAN  
UNIVERSITY

School of Education  
Tacoma, WA 98447-0003

253-535-7272 PHONE  
253-535-7184 FAX  
[educ@plu.edu](mailto:educ@plu.edu) EMAIL  
[www.plu.edu/~educ](http://www.plu.edu/~educ) WEBSITE

*Educating for Lives of  
Thoughtful Inquiry, Service,  
Leadership and Care*

SPED 911: Procedures for Students with Developmental Disabilities	Tucker
SPED 917: Education & Training for Individuals with Low Incidence Disabilities	Tucker
SPED 921: Procedures for Students with Autism	Tucker
SPED 916: Issues in Early Childhood Education	Friedrich-Nielsen
EDUC 905: Pedagogy Assessment (See ESY* Schedule below)	Nourse

\*The Extended School Year (ESY) is the fieldwork option available to add-on endorsement candidates. Current PLU Masters and Alternative Routes students do not complete the summer ESY field experience.