

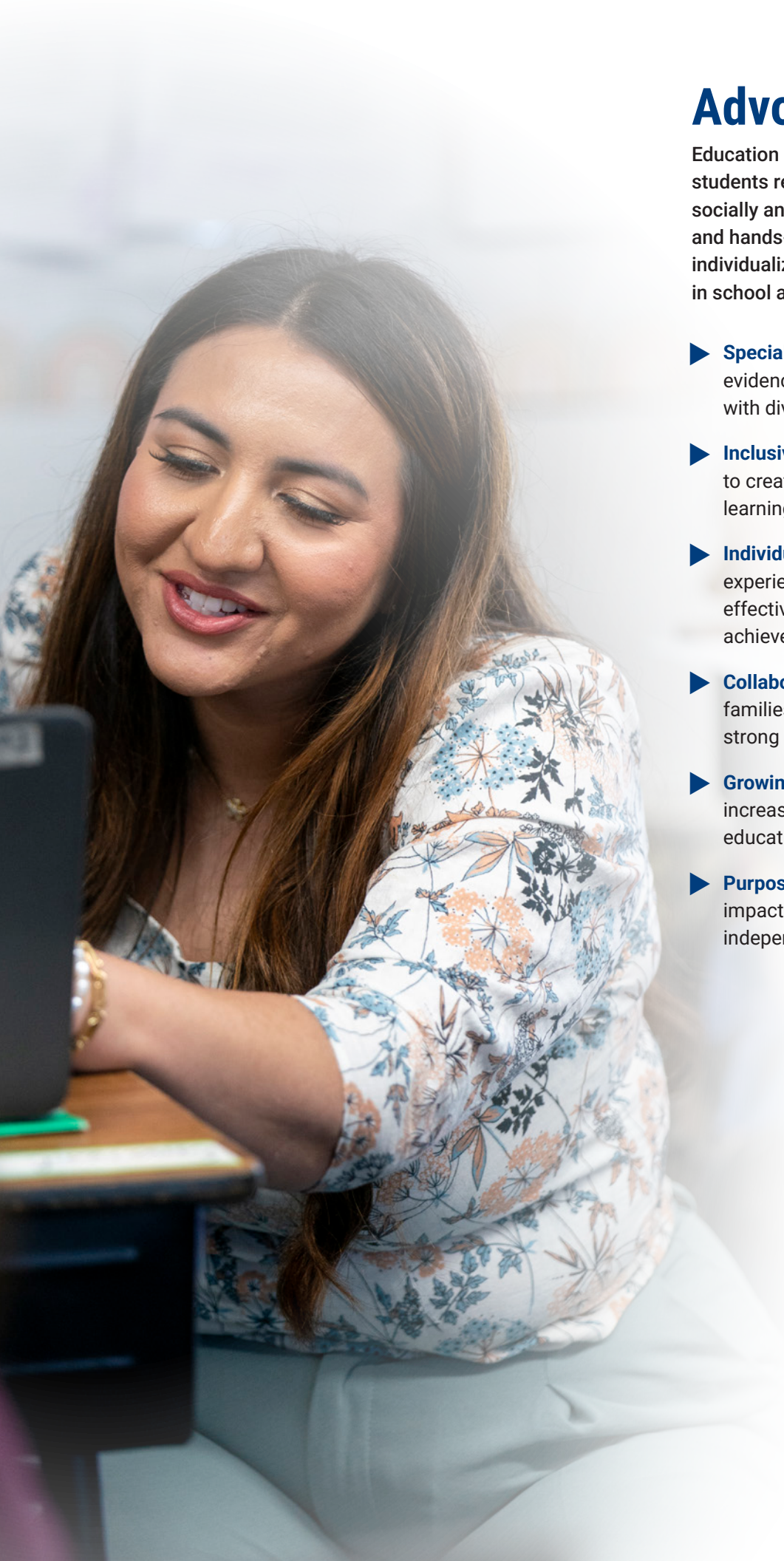
Education Specialist Credential

Prepare to Support Every Learner

Make a meaningful difference in the lives of students with diverse learning needs through Fresno Pacific University's Education Specialist Credential programs. Designed for future and current educators, these programs equip you with the practical skills, field experience and specialized knowledge needed to create inclusive learning environments where all students can thrive.

Whether you are beginning your journey in special education or expanding your professional opportunities, FPU offers pathways that prepare you to serve students with confidence, compassion and expertise.





Advocate for Inclusion.

Education specialists play a vital role in helping students reach their full potential academically, socially and emotionally. Through specialized training and hands-on experience, you'll learn how to provide individualized support that helps students succeed in school and beyond.

- ▶ **Specialized Instructional Strategies:** Learn evidence-based practices that support students with diverse learning needs and abilities.
- ▶ **Inclusive Classroom Support:** Develop skills to create positive, engaging and accessible learning environments for all students.
- ▶ **Individualized Education Planning:** Gain experience developing and implementing effective IEPs that support student growth and achievement.
- ▶ **Collaboration and Advocacy:** Work alongside families, teachers and service providers to build strong support systems for students.
- ▶ **Growing Career Opportunities:** Meet the increasing demand for qualified special education teachers across California schools.
- ▶ **Purpose-Driven Work:** Make a lasting impact by helping students build confidence, independence and lifelong skills.



FPU Program Highlights

Unit Count of Program: 31-37 units

- ▶ **Choose the credential pathway that fits your goals.** FPU offers three Education Specialist credential options:
 - **Early Childhood Special Education Preliminary Credential (Birth-Kinder):** Prepare to support infants, toddlers and young children with disabilities and developmental delays through early intervention and inclusive educational practices.
 - **Mild to Moderate Support Needs Preliminary Credential (Ages 5-22):** Develop the skills to support students with mild to moderate disabilities in a variety of educational settings.
 - **Extensive Support Needs Preliminary Credential (Ages 5-22):** Prepare to work with students who require significant academic, behavioral, communication and functional support.
- ▶ **Aligned with California Standards:** Our program meets California's credentialing requirements, ensuring you're fully prepared to teach in the state.
- ▶ Coursework **combines theory, fieldwork and practical application** to prepare you for today's classrooms.
- ▶ Learn strategies for **behavior support, assessment, collaboration and differentiated instruction.**
- ▶ FPU's credential programs are accredited by the California Commission on Teaching Credentialing (www.ctc.ca.gov).
- ▶ Learn from experienced educators who provide mentorship, guidance and insights to help you succeed.
- ▶ After completing your credential, students have the option to **obtain an M.A. in Special Education** at FPU with an additional 12 units.
- ▶ Offered on-site at the Main Fresno Campus and the Visalia Regional Campus.

Practical Preparation for Real Classrooms

Three education specialist credential programs are offered at FPU: Early Childhood Special Education Preliminary Credential, Mild to Moderate Support Needs Preliminary Credential and an Extensive Support Needs Preliminary Credential.

The following core courses are required for all three credential programs:

Course Prefix	Required Courses	Units
EDUC 642	Language and Literacy: Theory and Practice I	4
EDUC 643	Teaching Elementary Mathematics	3
EDUC 646	Language and Literacy: Theory and Practice II	3
SPEC 601	Foundations of Special Education and Health	3
SPEC 602	Special Education Laws, Ethics and Inclusion	3
SPEC 684	Special Education and General Education Fieldwork	4
SPEC 682 or	Directed Final Practicum and Seminar	4
SPEC 692	Intern Final Practicum and Seminar	4
SPEC 690A	Independent Teaching Support	2*
SPEC 690B	Intern Teaching Support	2*
SPEC 690C	Continuing Intern Teaching Support	3*

*SPEC-690A, B, or C is required each term for candidates employed as an intern or independent teacher (PIP/STSP). Independent teachers take SPEC-690A (2 units), interns take SPEC-690B (2 units), and continuing interns take SPEC-690C (3 units).

**Candidates entering the programs with a clear Multiple or Single Subject credential and an English Learner authorization are not required to enroll in EDUC 642, EDUC 643, and EDUC 646.

Early Childhood Special Education Preliminary Credential (ECSE)

In addition to the core above, the following classes are also required:

Course Prefix	Required Courses	Units
SPEC 615	Curriculum and Technology for Early Childhood Educators	4
SPEC 618	Assessment and Transitions: Early Childhood Special Education	3
SPEC 620	Early Childhood Special Education: Program Design and Development	3
SPEC 657	Comparative Development & Positive Behavior Supports	3

Mild to Moderate Support Needs (MMSN)

In addition to the core above, the following classes are also required:

Course Prefix	Required Courses	Units
SPEC 612	Curriculum and Technology for Mild Moderate	4
SPEC 659	Assessments & the IEP	3
SPEC 657	Comparative Development & Positive Behavior Supports	3

MMSN program completers who wish to add on an Extensive Support Needs or Multiple Subject Credential, should refer to fpu.edu/catalog for additional course requirements.

Extensive Support Needs (ESN)

In addition to the core above, the following classes are also required:

Course Prefix	Required Courses	Units
SPEC 616	Curriculum and Technology: Extensive Support Needs (ESN)	4
SPEC 659	Assessments & the IEP	3

ESN program completers who wish to add on a Mild to Moderate Support Needs (MMSN) or Multiple Subject Credential, should refer to fpu.edu/catalog for additional course requirements.

Application and Admission Information

To be considered for admission to the ECSE, MMSN, ESN Education Specialist Credential programs, please submit the following items:

- ☐ **Completed Application for Admission:** fpu.edu/applygrad
- ☐ **Official college/university transcript(s)** verifying receipt of a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution and any postbaccalaureate work.
 - If you are currently finishing up your degree, please submit current transcript.
 - A final transcript will need to be submitted before you may enroll in classes.
 - Transcripts can be sent electronically by your institution to trans.evaluator@fresno.edu or via mail in an envelope sealed by your institution to:

Fresno Pacific University
Office of the Registrar
1717 S. Chestnut Ave.
Fresno, CA 93702
- ☐ **If your cumulative GPA** for your bachelor's degree is below a 3.0 (4.0 scale), a letter of explanation is required.
- ☐ **Reference Forms** – Two references are required for the Education Specialist Credential program. The references should attest to your professional qualities and your academic qualifications, noting your ability to complete graduate-level work.
 - After you submit your application, your listed references will be contacted via email with a link to provide their recommendation.
- ☐ **Program Interview** – After submitting your application materials including transcripts, a representative will contact you to schedule an interview.
- ☐ **Verification of Subject Matter Competency** (not required for ECSE)
 - May be established by a bachelor's degree, coursework or passing the California Subject Examination for Teachers (CSET).
- ☐ **Certificate of Clearance** or valid CA credential.
- ☐ **Verification of current negative TB test** (within 12 months).

View our State Professional Licensing and Certificate Disclosure at fpu.edu/about/disclosure-documents.

The courses listed in this brochure provide a sample overview of our program. Please meet with your academic advisor or visit fpu.edu/catalog to finalize your course registration and sequence.



fpu.edu/graduate



Office of Graduate Studies | Graduate.Studies@fresno.edu | 559-453-3690

