

Gifted, Talented, and Creative
Special Education

Program Information and Student Handbook

EMPORIA STATE
UNIVERSITY™

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Mission Statement

Research shows teachers with training in gifted education are more likely to encourage students' higher-level thinking, allow for greater expression, consider individual student strengths and weaknesses, and provide a variety of learning experiences to challenge students.

The graduate degree program in Gifted, Talented, and Creative Special Education at Emporia State is designed to support the needs of the students, teachers, schools, and special education administrators in Kansas and is tied to The Teachers College conceptual framework.

Consequently, the mission of the special education faculty is to develop The Profession, who provides services to society; applies interdisciplinary scholarly knowledge; engages in effective practice; responds to uncertainty and change; relies on self-reflection; and belongs to professional community.

Disclaimer

The program requirements contained within this document are subject to change and may be revised as deemed necessary.

Program Goals and Objectives

Our graduates:

1. Provide service to society;
2. Apply interdisciplinary scholarly knowledge;
3. Engage in theory-based effective practice and decision making;
4. Respond to uncertainty and change caused by different needs of students and a changing world with new technologies that appear at an unprecedented rate;
5. Rely on self-reflection to evaluate, synthesize information, and make decision about how to modify teaching practices and appropriately assess student learning; and
6. Belong to a professional community of educators that work in schools to provide health environments for learning and teaching.

Program Overview

The graduate program in gifted special education at Emporia State University (ESU) is designed to support the needs of students, teachers, schools, and special education administrators in Kansas and throughout the nation. The Gifted, Talented, and Creative Special Education curriculum meets the endorsement standards in Kansas for Grades K-12.

Application Process

Applicants must submit all required admissions documents and be accepted into the program by the department prior to pre-enrolling in their second semester of study. Acceptance into the program is a two-level process:

1. Students apply to be admitted to complete graduate study at Emporia State University at <https://www.emporia.edu/graduate-school/>.
2. Students apply for admission into the Gifted, Talented, and Creative Special Education Program for either degree candidacy or the endorsement only.

Students who have not enrolled for three-years and have been inactivated will be required to reapply and obtain a new departmental approval/eligibility before they can continue in their degree program.

Admission to the Gifted, Talented, and Creative Special Education Program

1. Complete Emporia State University's Graduate School Application.
Important: Students in distance programs must submit a photo-copy of the valid government-issued photo identification (ID) that is acknowledged by the student's

signature. Government issued ID include such documents as driver’s license, passport, military ID, or permanent resident card.

2. Hold a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university and be eligible for a teaching license.
3. Have a minimum grade point average of 3.00 based on a 4.0 scale (the average may be on the total undergraduate record or on the last 60 hours).
4. Provide a copy of a current, valid teaching license.
5. Submit the Advanced Program Disclosure Form. A link to the form will be sent to the student’s ESU student email account.

After acceptance into the Graduate School has been completed, the application materials will be review by the Gifted, Talented, and Creative Special Education Admissions Committee for acceptance into the Gifted, Talented, and Creative Program.

Application review will result in full acceptance, probationary acceptance, or denial. The faculty admissions committee will determine probation status on a case-by-case basis.

Degree Candidacy

Degree candidacy is granted when a candidate admitted to graduate study has:

1. Successfully completed a minimum of six semester hours of course work in the graduate program of study; and
2. Filed a degree plan with the department no later than upon the completion of the 12 hours of course work. The degree plan must be approved by the candidate's advisor and the department chair. Candidates must have a grade of A or B on all courses on the plan of study.
3. Candidates seeking the gifted endorsement with a master’s degree must hold a current Kansas teaching license. Students from other states must hold a current teaching license in their respective state, and they must contact their state department of education to ensure ESU’s program meets their state’s requirements. Students completing endorsement program who wish to obtain endorsement for teaching gifted special education should contact the Teacher Licensure Officer in the Office of Field Placement & Licensure within The Teachers College for initial advisement (620-341-5412).

Courses for Gifted, Talented, and Creative Master’s Degree		
ER 752	Analysis of Research	3 hrs.
SD 799	Consultation and Collaboration	3 hrs.
SD 802	Seminar in Behavior Management	3 hrs.
SD 820	Assessment in Schools	3 hrs.
SD850	Characteristics of the Gifted	3 hrs.
SD 851	Education of the Gifted	3 hrs.

SD852	Affective Needs of the Gifted	3 hrs.
SD864	Creative Teaching and Learning	3.hrs.
SD865	Supervised Practice, Gifted I	3 hrs.
SD866	Supervised Practice, Gifted II	3 hrs.
Total Credit Hours		30 hrs.

Successful completion of the Praxis Exam is required for gifted endorsement.

Non-Degree/Licensure Seeking Student

Students with at least a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution who desire to enroll in graduate course work but are not seeking a degree or certificate are classified as non-degree or licensure students. Students must hold a valid teaching license, have applied for a valid license, or have applied for reinstatement for a valid teaching license. Students are required to pay an application fee and submit proof of baccalaureate degree by submitting official transcript(s) from a regionally accredited institution. Faculty reserve the right to decide on the applicability of course work taken prior to formal admission into a non-degree program.

A non-degree or licensure student, who wishes to enter a degree program later, must submit a new application and go through the admission review process. A maximum of 12 approved hours earned under this status may be applied to a degree program. Students should check the graduate degree listing or contact the Teacher Licensure Officer within the Teachers College (620-341-5412) for specific licensure programs offered at ESU.

Endorsement is recommended when a student is admitted to the program and has:

1. Filed a plan of study, which has been approved by the student's advisor and ESU's Teacher Licensure Officer;
2. Earned a grade of A or B on all courses on the plan of study; and
3. Successfully passed the required state licensure exam (e.g. Praxis).

Courses for Gifted Endorsement Only		
SD850	Characteristics of the Gifted	3 hrs.
SD 851	Education of the Gifted	3 hrs.
SD852	Affective Needs of the Gifted	3 hrs.
SD864	Creative Teaching and Learning	3.hrs.
SD865	Supervised Practice, Gifted I	3 hrs.
SD866	Supervised Practice, Gifted II	3 hrs.
Total Credit Hours		18 hrs.

In addition to the successful completion of the above coursework, successful completion of the Praxis is required to add the Gifted endorsement to one's teaching license.

Length of Program

Requirements for the master's, certificates and specialist in education graduate degrees must be completed within seven (7) years from the date of the first enrollment. In the case of compelling circumstances, the Department offering the degree may consider a petition for a one-year extension of all requirements. The Graduate Council may consider a petition, with Departmental approval, to validate course work in the ninth or tenth year, dating from the first enrollment. Validation may be accomplished by examination or additional approved work. No transfer work can be validated. No work over ten years old can be used to satisfy the requirements for graduate degrees.

The Graduate Council may consider a petition, with departmental approval, to validate course work in the ninth or tenth years, dating from the first enrollment. Validation may be accomplished by certification of current competence with the subject matter either through examination or through using the content on the job or additional approved work. No transfer work can be validated. No work over ten years old can be used to satisfy the requirements for graduate degrees at Emporia State University.

Credit Transfer

Graduate credit earned from nationally accredited institutions may be transferred for credit toward the Master's Degree:

1. No more than nine (9) semester hours of credit may be transferred into the master's degree.
2. A grade of B or higher must have been earned in all such transfer credit.
3. Official transcripts of all transfer work must be on file in the Graduate School prior to submitting degree plans.
4. Transfer courses must be approved by the advisor, chair of the major department, and the Dean of the Graduate School.
5. The transfer credit must be applicable toward a graduate degree at the university at which the course work was taken.

Students who have obtained a degree from a foreign university/college must have a transcript evaluation from a recommended external source that is a member of National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES). Students will not be allowed to enroll until the evaluation has been received in the Graduate School. Students with questions should consult with the Office of International Education, Registration Office, or the Graduate School. All the usual criteria for transfer credits apply (approved by Graduate Council March 2005).

Retention

Candidates are required to earn a B or above on all courses. Candidates who earn a grade of C or lower may retake the course one time only. Candidates can retake up to 25% of total courses on

their plan of study (i.e., Licensure students can retake up to two courses on their plans of study. Master’s degree seeking students can retake up to three courses on their plans of study.).

Practicum

The practicum experiences allow candidates opportunities to demonstrate teaching competence by integrating theory and practice. Candidates will apply, refine, and synthesize knowledge, technique, and skills learned in the coursework. Candidates must complete a planned sequence of two supervised practicum experiences. Students must be admitted into the program to be eligible to take practicum. Candidates must be employed as a K-12 teacher of record in a school setting to complete the practicums.

Degree Plan

A degree program plan must be completed and approved before the second term of enrollment. Please refer to the graduate policy handbook for the specific requirements. Upon receiving the acceptance letter, it is the **student’s responsibility** to contact the assigned advisor to develop the plan of study.

Intent to Graduate

Notice of intent to graduate must be received by the Graduate School the semester preceding graduation. The Intent to Graduate form is due the semester before you plan to graduate, March 1 for summer graduates, July 1 for fall graduates, and November 1 for spring graduates. Failure to give notice of intent to graduate may cause a delay in graduation. The intent to graduate form must be submitted through your Hornet365 account.

Scholarships

Scholarships are available for students admitted into the Master of Science in Special Education: Gifted, Talented, and Creative Concentration program. Here is the link to the website for further information. <https://emporia.scholarships.ngwebsolutions.com>.

Waiver Requirements

1. Be admitted into the Master of Science in Gifted, Talented, and Creative Special Education degree program or non-licensure endorsement only program.
2. Have a completed and approved degree plan or plan of study (i.e., endorsement only).
3. Be enrolled in at least one course during the same semester the waiver application is made by the district cooperative.
4. Once Steps 1, 2, and 3 are complete your school district administration will submit the paperwork for the waiver to the Kansas State Department of Education.

Provisional Endorsement Requirements

Candidates can apply for provisional endorsement when the following courses have been completed:

SD850	Characteristics of the Gifted	3 hrs.
SD 851	Education of the Gifted	3 hrs.

SD865	Supervised Practice, Gifted I	3 hrs.
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Under current Kansas regulation, the candidate may teach up to two years on a provisional endorsement while working toward completion of the Gifted, Talented, and Creative course work within the master's program. The provisional endorsement may be renewed once for an additional two years if the candidate has completed an additional 50% of the remaining required course work.

Gifted Special Education Endorsement Requirements

Candidates can apply for full endorsement when the following courses have been completed AND a passing score on the Praxis is earned:

Courses for Gifted Endorsement Only		
SD850	Characteristics of the Gifted	3 hrs.
SD 851	Education of the Gifted	3 hrs.
SD852	Affective Needs of the Gifted	3 hrs.
SD864	Creative Teaching and Learning	3.hrs.
SD865	Supervised Practice, Gifted I	3 hrs.
SD866	Supervised Practice, Gifted II	3 hrs.
Total Credit Hours		18 hrs.

In addition to the successful completion of the above coursework, successful completion of the Praxis is required to add the Gifted endorsement to one's teaching license.

Contact the licensure officer at Emporia State University for additional information regarding the Gifted Special Education Endorsement. That office can be reached by calling 620-341-5412.

Praxis Test Information

Students seeking the Gifted endorsement must successfully pass the Praxis test. Praxis test information for the state of Kansas is available through the Educational Testing Service (ETS) website via the following link: ets.org/praxis/ks/test-takers. ESU must be a score recipient. ESU's code is 6335.

Currently, the Praxis test needed to be eligible for a Gifted Special Education endorsement in Kansas is test #5358 with cut score of 157. Additional information about the test can be found at ets.org/praxis/site/test-takers. Please contact the ESU Licensure Officer before signing up for the Praxis test to ensure accuracy of test requirements.

Gifted, Talented, and Creative Course Descriptions.

Each graduate student in the gifted program must have access to technology with appropriate software and network connection to support his/her graduate work. Some examples of technology used in courses might include live chat sessions and streaming videos. Contact the specific course instructor to inquire about the frequency of live chat sessions and video review (weekly, biweekly, etc.).

ER 752. ANALYSIS OF RESEARCH 3 HRS.

An introductory graduate level course in research methodology designed to allow the student to function as a knowledgeable and critical consumer of scholarly research in their field of endeavor.

SD 799. CONSULTATION AND COLLABORATION 3 HRS.

This course provides practical approaches for students to refine and practice effective communication skills. Current models of consultation/collaboration will be presented. Topics studies include communication skills; academic diversity issues; teaming; problem-solving; co-teaching approaches; working with paraeducators; models for collaboration with regular educators; engaging and empowering families and community in the education of the learner; and the use of technology for collaborative communication.

SD 802. SEMINAR IN BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT 3 HRS.

This course provides a practical guide to experienced teachers, teachers-in-training, parents, and paraprofessionals for applying behavior management techniques both in general and special educational settings and in the home. The course focuses on the principles of behavior management and their application in the educational programs, as well as in the home. This course will help the student become a critical thinker, creative planner, and effective practitioner. The primary goal of this course is the ethical, effective, and efficient management of behavior and learning problems of children and youth as they learn to explore, manipulate, and ultimately control their world for personal satisfaction and benefit for the betterment of society.

SD 820. ASSESSMENT IN SCHOOLS 3 HRS.

This course is a survey of the broad spectrum of psychological tests used in the assessment of human potential and functioning. The focus is on the nature, use, and interpretations of various methods of evaluation with specific reference to measurement in the areas of aptitude, achievement, interest, personality, and intelligence. Analyzing data and the interpretation of test results is a major emphasis.

SD 850. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GIFTED 3 HRS.

This course emphasizes definitions of giftedness, characteristics of the gifted, special populations of the gifted and factors involved in the identification of the gifted. Special problem topics are identified and addressed.

SD 851. EDUCATION OF GIFTED LEARNERS 3 HRS.

Development and implementation of gifted programming and differentiated instructional practices for diverse K-12 gifted learners.

SD 852. AFFECTIVE NEEDS OF THE GIFTED 3 HRS.

This seminar provides information on affective aspects of giftedness, emphasizing proactive and preventative approaches.

SD 864. CREATIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING 3 HRS.

The course, appropriate for both special teachers of the gifted and general educators, including teachers, counselors, and administrators, explores the nature of creativity, with the emphasis given to attitudes, motivations, and educational practices which foster the identification, development, and maintenance of creative behaviors.

SD 865. SUPERVISED PRACTICE I: GIFTED, TALENTED & CREATIVE P-12 3 HRS.

Supervised Practice I: Gifted, Talented, & Creative P-12 requires students to draw on knowledge and skills gained in previous gifted education courses to plan and carry out relevant, appropriate projects with diverse gifted children and adolescents at P-12 grade levels.

SD 866. SUPERVISED PRACTICE II: GIFTED, TALENTED & CREATIVE P-12 3 HRS.

Supervised Practice II: Gifted, Talented & Creative P-12 requires students to draw on knowledge and skills gained in previous gifted education courses to plan and carry out relevant, appropriate projects with diverse gifted children and adolescents at P-12 grade levels.