

# Work-and-Learn: Special Education License

Work-and-Learn Program aims to recruit, prepare, retain and support highly qualified paraprofessionals and Tier 1 and Tier 2 teachers on their journey to become a Tier 3 licensed teacher. It provides an affordable, accessible, and accelerated program to earn a Minnesota teaching license and master's degree in 2 years.

## WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Individuals who are dedicated to education, are current or prospective employees of one of the partner districts and have a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.

## WHAT WILL THE PROGRAM LOOK LIKE?

- Participants will be employed as teachers of record or paraprofessionals by school district.
- Participants will take a combination of online and/or face-to-face courses in a cohort model at the University of St. Thomas and district site.
  - One evening a week for a face-to-face class and one evening a week for Online class.
  - No more than two classes at a time with three classes completed per semester (2 - 8 week classes and 1 – 16 week class).
- Cohorts of 18-25 students starting each fall.

Year 1				Year 2		
Fall	J-Term	Spring	Summer	Fall	J-Term	Spring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standards of Effective Practice</li> <li>• Classroom Engagement</li> <li>• Effective Teaching and Learning</li> <li>• Field Experiences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educational Equity &amp; Inclusive Practices</li> <li>• Field Experiences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literacy Development</li> <li>• Fundamental courses in Special Education</li> <li>• Field Experiences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special Education courses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special Education courses</li> <li>• Clinical Practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disability Specific Method courses</li> <li>• Clinical Practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinical Practice (on the job)</li> <li>• Master's Research</li> </ul>

## WHAT DOES THE PROGRAM COST? \*

Program	Credits
Initial Academic Behavior Strategist License Coursework	31 credits
Add on Masters Degree	3 credits
Add on Autism Spectrum Disorder or Emotional Behavior Disorders License Coursework	8 credits

- University of St. Thomas tuition for MA degree
- Cost of books is an additional fee and varies by course
- Financial aid available
  - Participants may be eligible for Federal student loan forgiveness while teaching
  - Participants of color may be eligible for Collaborative Urban Educator funding

## AFTER 1ST LICENSE

The University of St. Thomas makes it very easy to add on 1 of 6 additional licenses with 2-3 additional courses.

## HOW TO BEGIN THE PROCESS

Contact Barbara Jo Stahl - [bjstahl@stthomas.edu](mailto:bjstahl@stthomas.edu) with your school's interest.

The University of St. Thomas will work with planning team members to create a Work-and-Learn serving program specific to your district. District teachers will be recruited to co-teacher Work-and-Learn courses with University of St. Thomas faculty members.