

FY27 SPED Teacher Pathway Candidate Success Guidelines

The Special Education Teacher Pathway is designed to support educators financially and academically as they work toward obtaining a special education teaching license. Successful candidates demonstrate commitment, professionalism, and steady progress throughout their licensure program.

Characteristics of a Successful SPED Teacher Pathway Candidate

1. Demonstrates Consistent Academic Progress

- Enrolls in and completes coursework according to their approved licensure plan.
- Successfully completes required coursework each term with passing grades.
- Meets or exceeds the program expectation of completing coursework each term
 - WGU Undergrad = minimum of 9 CUs passed per term
 - WGU Grad = minimum of 8 CUs passed per term
- Maintains satisfactory academic standing with their TPP (2.5 GPA or higher)
- Proactively seeks support from Program Success Coach when academic challenges arise and follows a support plan if needed.

2. Communicates Regularly and Professionally

- Responds to emails, phone calls, and requests from the SPED Pathway team in a timely manner.
- Attends required meetings, check-ins, and program requests such as surveys.
- Keeps the SPED Pathway team informed of changes in enrollment, employment, licensure goals, or academic status.
- Submits required documentation by established deadlines.

3. Demonstrates Commitment to Special Education

- Shows a genuine interest in serving students with disabilities.
- Applies learning from coursework to educational practice.
- Seeks opportunities to grow knowledge and skills related to special education.
- Maintains a positive, student-centered mindset.

4. Uses Available Supports and Resources

- Engages with university advisors, mentors, instructors, and SPED Pathway Program Success Coach.
- Participates in coaching, mentoring, and professional development opportunities through the SPED Pathway.
- Develops and follows plans to address academic or personal barriers when needed.
- Utilizes available resources before challenges become significant obstacles.

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5. Demonstrates Professional Responsibility

- Maintains employment and professional conduct consistent with district, TPP, and SPED Pathway expectations.
- Meets financial and scholarship requirements.
- Uses grant funding appropriately and according to program guidelines.
- Completes required reports, grade submissions, and funding documentation accurately and on time.

6. Shows Persistence and Resilience

- Demonstrates determination when coursework becomes challenging.
- Accepts feedback and implements recommendations for improvement.
- Develops strategies to balance work, family, and educational responsibilities.
- Maintains progress toward licensure despite setbacks.

7. Remains Focused on Program Completion

- Establishes a realistic licensure completion timeline.
- Makes consistent progress toward meeting all licensure requirements.
- Successfully completes student teaching, field experiences, assessments, and other program requirements as applicable.
- Works toward becoming a licensed special education teacher who can positively impact students and schools.
- Communicates regularly with their building admin on progress of their licensure program.

A successful SPED Teacher Pathway candidate is an educator who actively engages in their licensure program, communicates effectively with their district, TPP, and the SPED Pathway team, utilizes available supports, demonstrates steady academic progress, and remains committed to completing their special education licensure requirements.

SWWC is excited to take this journey with you and looks forward to supporting your growth as you work toward becoming a licensed special education teacher!