

## Education of Students with Mental and Physical Disabilities (M/PD) Checklist

The University of Pittsburgh, School of Education, offers an M/PD specialization to prepare special educators to teach children and youth with a range of disabilities and emphasizes educational needs rather than categorical labels. Individuals are prepared as teachers with eligibility for Pennsylvania non-categorical certification in teaching children and youth with cognitive, behavior, physical, and/or health disabilities. Details are outlined below.

### To be considered for admission, applicants need to have:

- submitted a completed School of Education application form and the application fee
- earned an undergraduate degree with a minimum QPA of 3.0 (applications from students who plan to earn their undergraduate degree before the term of admission will be considered)
- submitted official transcripts from all institutions attended
- submitted a copy of the spring registration form if enrolled in spring term courses
- completed the appropriate number of prerequisite credit hours in Academic Prerequisites
- completed the appropriate number of prerequisite credit hours in Chapter 354.23 Prerequisites
- submitted evidence of passing scores on the PRAXIS I test series (reading, writing, and mathematics)
- submitted three letters of academic and/or professional recommendation
- submitted a thoughtful, clearly written goal statement of two to three double-spaced typewritten pages
- submitted a resumé, including volunteer work

### **MEETING OR EXCEEDING THE APPLICATION CRITERIA DOES NOT GUARANTEE ADMISSION**

The application deadline is January 15 of the admission year. If you have any questions, please contact the Admission and Enrollment Services Office at 412-648-2230.

There are two certification options in the post-baccalaureate Education of Students with Mental and Physical Disabilities specialization. One option is for teacher certification only; the second option combines teacher certification with the Master of Education (MEd) degree. Admission follows successful completion of an undergraduate degree, selected prerequisite courses, and the Praxis I exam. Most students enter the MPD specialization on a full-time basis; however a part-time option is also available

The certification-only option prepares qualified applicants to obtain the Pennsylvania Special Education N-12 Instructional I Certificate in Cognitive, Behavior, Physical, and Health Disabilities. Teachers with this certificate may provide specialized support and instruction to eligible students at preschool, elementary, and secondary levels in a variety of settings. These include special education classrooms and resource rooms, general education classrooms and settings, and the community. Special education teachers may also assist in the assessment and identification of students in need of special education services, coordinate the development and implementation of Individualized Education Programs, and collaborate with or provide consultative support to general educators.

MPD certification students must complete 33 credits beyond the prerequisite course work. Most Instructional I candidates complete the program after twelve months of full-time study. Each year a new cohort of students begins the program together, starting in late June in one year and finishing in early June of the next. With the exception of the first summer term, MPD courses are offered in the evening. Each course in the MPD specialization is offered only one time per year, so students who miss a course offering will need to wait a full year to enroll in the needed course.

Students are required to complete two different full-time student teaching practica in the spring, each of eight weeks duration. Additionally, during the fall term MPD students are required to spend one day per week at each school to which they are assigned for student teaching. At the end of student teaching, certification & MEd candidates in MPD are also required to complete professional and/or master's competency exams.

Compliance with all PA background clearance regulations as indicated on the website [www.pde.state.pa.us](http://www.pde.state.pa.us) is required before entering schools. Information is also available at [www.education.pitt.edu](http://www.education.pitt.edu).

Apply online at [www.education.pitt.edu/apply](http://www.education.pitt.edu/apply)

Student \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ QPA \_\_\_\_\_

### Academic Prerequisites

Course No.	Course Title	GR		Credits
			Foundations of Special Education (IL1580/2500)	
			Reading and Language Arts for the Primary Grades (IL 2206), or a curriculum course in regular education, in the teaching of reading or language arts	
			Math for Elementary Teachers (IL 1473), or a curriculum course in regular education in the teaching of mathematics	
			Instructing English Language Learners (IL 2257)	

### Chapter 354.23 Prerequisites

Section 354.23 of the Pennsylvania Department of Education teacher certification requirements states that all prospective candidates must take at least 6 semester hour credits in college level English and 6 semester hour credits in college level Mathematics with a grade of C or better.

Course No.	Course Title	GR		Credits
			College Level English Composition (or the equivalent*)	3
			College Level American or British Literature (or the equivalent*)	3
			College Level Mathematics (or the equivalent*)	3
			College Level Mathematics (or the equivalent*)	3

\*SAT II writing subject test score of 600 or above satisfies the three credit English composition requirement.

\*A Math SAT II score of 560 or above, or a college or university Algebra Placement Test, or the successful completion of an Advanced Placement Mathematics class that appears on your institution's transcript, satisfies three credits of the Math requirement.

## Curriculum for Certification in Mental and Physical Disabilities (CBP/HD) and MEd with Certification in Mental and Physical Disabilities (CBP/HD)

*\*To add the Master of Education (MEd) degree to the certification program, students are required to complete 12 credits of graduate level courses in addition to the courses for certification listed below*

### Summer Session (7 credits)

IL 2751	Methods and Management in Special Education	3 credits
IL 2509	Applied Behavior Analysis/Positive Behavior Support	3 credits
IL 2051	Computer Applications in Education	1 credit
*	Basic Area of Education Course	3 credits

### Fall Term (12 credits)

IL 2511	Curriculum and Program Development Low Incidence Disabilities	3 credits
IL 2512	Assessment and Instruction- High Incidence Disabilities	3 credits
IL 2513	Instructional Methods – High Incidence Disabilities	3 credits
IL 2522	Education of Students with Emotional Disturbance	3 credits
IL 2591	Literacy Tutoring (taken with 2513)	1 credit
*	Basic Area of Education Course	3 credits

### Spring Term (12 credits)

IL 2517	Collaboration and Consultation	3 credits
IL 2854	Student Teaching with Low Incidence Disabilities	3 credits
IL 2858	Practicum Seminar in Mental and Physical Disabilities (required for student teaching)	2 credits
IL 2853	Student Teaching with High Incidence Disabilities	3 credits
*	Basic Area of Education Course	3 credits
IL 2590	Research Seminar in Special Education	2 credits

### Summer Session (2 credits)

IL 2755	Professional Issues Seminar - MPD	2 credits
*IL 2590	Research Seminar in Special Education	1 credits

<p><b>For further information concerning program offerings, please contact:</b>          Department of Instruction and Learning          5300 Wesley W. Posvar Hall          University of Pittsburgh          Pittsburgh, PA 15260          Telephone 412-624-7254</p>	<p><b>Application Questions? Contact:</b>          Admission and Enrollment Services          School of Education          5500 Wesley W. Posvar Hall          University of Pittsburgh          Pittsburgh, PA 15260          Telephone 412-648-2230          Online Application available at:  <a href="http://www.education.pitt.edu/apply">http://www.education.pitt.edu/apply</a></p>
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