**New Graduate Program (Majors, Sequences, Certificates) Proposal  
Illinois State University - Graduate Curriculum Committee**

**Program Department**   Special Education

**Submission Date**  Tuesday, November 19, 2024

**Initiator**   Allison Kroesch

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**Initiator Department**   Special Education

**Coauthor(s)**   Melinda Ely (msely@ilstu.edu), Melissa McGraw (mlmcgr3@ilstu.edu)

**Version**   5   **ID**   235

**Title of New Program**   Multilingual Special Education Certificate

**Proposed Starting Catalog Year**   2026-2027

**Associated Course Proposals**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Course** | **Title** | **Version** | **Proposal Type** | **Initiator** |
|  | SED 408 | Foundations for Working with Multilingual Learners | 1 | New Grad Course | Allison Kroesch |
|  | SED 412 | Special Education Assessment for Multilingual Learners | 4 | New Grad Course | Allison Kroesch |
|  | SED 444 | Methods of Teaching Multilingual Learners with Disabilities | 5 | New Grad Course | Allison Kroesch |

**1.**

**Proposed Action**

New Major

New Sequence

✓

New Certificate

More than 50% of courses in this program are Distance Education

**2.**

**Provide *Graduate Catalog* copy for new program.**

Multilingual Special Education Certificate

Pursuing the Multilingual Special Education Certificate provides licensed teachers with specialized training in educating multilingual learners with (possible) disabilities, including students for whom English is not their first language, from an intersectional lens. The program is designed to meet the coursework required by the Illinois State Board of Education for Bilingual Education (BiL) or English as a Second Language (ESL) endorsement.

**18 hours required**

* SED 408
* SED 412
* SED 444
* SED 498
* TCH 409

Take one of the following options:

* TCH 427
* ENG 461

**Notes**

* A grade of C or better is required in all required courses
* Students seeking coursework for the endorsement of Bilingual Education (BiL) must take TCH 427.
* Students seeking coursework for the endorsement of English as a Second Language (ESL) must take ENG 461.

**3.**

**Provide a description for the proposed program.**

This online certificate program provides licensed teachers with specialized training in educating multilingual learners with (possible) disabilities, including students for whom English is not their first language, from an intersectional lens. The program is designed to meet the coursework required by the Illinois State Board of Education for Bilingual Education (BiL) or English as a Second Language (ESL) endorsement. Accordingly, only licensed teachers will be accepted into this certificate program.

The program includes 6 classes (18 hours): four SED courses in development (theoretical foundations, assessment, methods, and professional practice), TCH 409, and the option to choose either TCH 427 (BiL endorsement route) or ENG 461 (ESL endorsement route). Our department worked with TCH and ENG to ensure students have the opportunity to take courses outside of SED. Cohorts will complete classes within three semesters, with each cohort beginning in the summer.

**4.**

**Provide a rationale of proposed program.**

The Multilingual Special Education Certificate is designed to address the growing need for educators who can effectively teach students with diverse language backgrounds, particularly those with potential disabilities. As schools see an increase in students for whom English is not their first language, this certificate program equips licensed teachers with specialized skills to meet these students' unique educational needs. The program focuses on understanding how culture, language learning, and disabilities may intersect, resulting in unique needs for learning, assessment, and family engagement.

A critical component of the program is its alignment with the Illinois State Board of Education's (ISBE) requirements for Bilingual Education (BiL) or English as a Second Language (ESL) endorsements. This ensures that students not only gain knowledge in special education but allows them to seek the bilingual or ESL endorsements through ISBE. Since only licensed teachers are accepted, the program builds on their existing knowledge and experience, deepening their expertise in working with multilingual students.

The curriculum, structured across six courses (18 credit hours), blends core Special Education (SED) coursework with targeted learning in bi-/multi-llingual education, ensuring teachers have both a specialized and a broader understanding of teaching multilingual learners. The inclusion of clinical experience, family involvement, assessment techniques, and diverse methods ensures that graduates are prepared to apply theory into practice. Furthermore, offering courses from TCH and ENG departments allows participants to tailor their learning toward the specific endorsement route (BiL or ESL), making the program adaptable to individual career goals.

Cohorts complete the program over three semesters, which promotes collaboration among peers and creates a structured, efficient pathway to both deepen expertise and earn the required credentials. Starting in the summer makes the program accessible to working professionals, allowing them to balance the demands of their careers with advancing their qualifications.

**5.**

**Describe the expected effects of the proposed program on existing campus programs (if applicable).**

No other program at Illinois State intersects multilingual education and special education.

**6.**

**Describe the expected curricular changes required, including new courses. If proposals for new courses that will be or have been submitted, please reference those related proposals here:**

Three new courses are being sent through the curriculum forms for approval:

* SED 408
* SED 412
* SED 444

**7.**

**Anticipated funding needs and source of funds.**

No financial implications are anticipated in the first year. At full implementation, we might need an additional full time TT once the minor is fully implemented by Fall 2026. We would request a position from AIF.

**8.**

**Yes**

**Does this program count for teacher education?**

This certificate program offers specialized educators a rigorous, research-based academic experience. It aims to enable participants to effectively address the diverse needs of the education field, ultimately producing exceptionally well-prepared and highly effective teachers.

**9.**

**The following questions must be answered.**

**Yes**

Have letter(s) of concurrence from affected departments/schools been obtained?  
*A departments/school is affected if it has a program with significant overlap or if it teaches a required or elective course in the program.*

*If new window does not appear after clicking the View Support button,  
please disable the "pop-up blocker" feature of your internet browser.*

**Financial Implications Form**

*If new window does not appear after clicking the View Financial Implications button,  
please disable the "pop-up blocker" feature of your internet browser.*

**10.**

**Routing and action summary for New Graduate Program:**

[**Proposal Routing**](https://registrarforms.illinoisstate.edu/CurriculumForms/Support/Routing.aspx)

**1. Special Education Department Curriculum Committee Chair**

*Jeongae Kang (website)*

Jeongae Kang

9/28/2024 3:24:43 PM

Signature

Print

Date

**2. Special Education Department Chair/School Director**

*Yojanna Cuenca-Carlino (web)*

Yojanna Cuenca-Carlino

9/30/2024 8:07:51 AM

Signature

Print

Date

**3. College of Education College Curriculum Committee Chair**

*Elizabeth White (website)*

Elizabeth White

10/10/2024 11:13:00 AM

Signature

Print

Date

**4. College of Education College Dean**

*Todd McLoda (website)*

Todd McLoda

10/10/2024 3:51:33 PM

Signature

Print

Date

**5. Council for Teacher Education Chair**

*Allison Kroesch (website)*

Allison Kroesch

11/19/2024 4:16:49 PM

Signature

Print

Date

**6. Graduate Curriculum Committee Chair**

*Elizabeth Thompson (website)*

Elizabeth Thompson

2/13/2025 10:12:53 AM

Signature

Print

Date

**7. Director of Graduate School**

*Stephen Weiser (website)*

Stephen Weiser

2/20/2025 1:26:13 PM

Signature

Print

Date

All new graduate programs (majors, sequences, certificates) are routed by the G.C.C. to the Academic Senate

**Comments**

**Comments from Version 1 from Allison Kroesch ( Department Curriculum Committee Chair):**  
Needed to add the support letters.  
**Comments from Version 2 from Jeongae Kang ( Department Curriculum Committee Chair):**  
Support letter needs to be attached.  
**Comments from Version 3 from Jeongae Kang (Special Education Department Curriculum Committee Chair):**  
Thanks for adding support letter from TCH.  
**Comments from Version 3 from Elizabeth White ( College Curriculum Committee Chair):**  
Program is approved by College Curriculum Committee- Need to attach Financial Implications Form (FIF)  
**Comments from Version 4 from Jeongae Kang (Special Education Department Curriculum Committee Chair):**  
Thanks for adding support letter from TCH.  
**Comments from Version 4 from Allison Kroesch (Council for Teacher Education Chair):**  
Add the approved FIF form  
**Comments from Version 5 from Jeongae Kang (Special Education Department Curriculum Committee Chair):**  
Thanks for adding support letter from TCH.  
**Comments from Version 5 from Allison Kroesch (Council for Teacher Education Chair):**  
The approved FIF is in the "view support" button.