

Area of Interest: Education

Certificate

Post-Baccalaureate Alternative Special Education
Mild to Moderate K-8, Teacher in Residence

[College Catalog 2026-2027](#)

Program Location

All Campuses

Program Description

The Post-Baccalaureate Alternative Special Education Mild to Moderate, Teacher in Residence (TIR) program provides students holding a baccalaureate degree in any content area to complete coursework and field experiences to earn teaching certification in a mild to moderate special education setting. The program leads to Arizona teacher certification and provides candidates with the necessary foundation to teach in a special education K-12 classroom. This program emphasizes sound pedagogical practices while stressing the skills, knowledge, and dispositions necessary to confidently enter the field of education to support students with exceptionalities. Candidates engage in a purposeful program of study, which is grounded in theory and infused with practical experiences in schools. Candidates engage in the foundational models of educational practice, interdisciplinary course methodology and pedagogy, constructs of an effective learning environment to include behavior management, conflict resolution, and positive behavior models in the classroom, systems of culturally responsive teaching to meet the needs of diverse students, educational psychology, ethical and legal best practice and decision making, data-based approaches for developing individualized instruction, and fostering digital literacy through curiosity, innovation, global awareness, and reflection for the use of technology in the classroom.

Candidates complete field experiences in special education settings in grades K-8 and 9-12. The Alternative K-8 program includes 45 hours of field experience in grades 9-12. In the final semester of the program, the candidate completes 12 weeks of student teaching in the K-8 special education classroom aligned to the contracted teaching position.

For candidates who plan to teach in an English Language Development (ELD) classroom, students must complete and show proof of an ADE approved Structured English Immersion workshop or course. For students in need of this requirement, CAC offers EDU240 Structured English Immersion. This course is on the ADE list of approved SEI coursework for the teacher certification endorsement.

For candidates who have a deficiency in the U.S. and Arizona Constitutions requirement for teaching certification, CAC offers POS220 U.S. and Arizona Constitutions.

Students in the Post-Baccalaureate Traditional Special Education Mild to Moderate program are required to pass the ADEPA Professional Knowledge exam for Special Education prior to the capstone student teaching phase.

Upon completion of the Post-Baccalaureate Program, the CAC program supervisor will provide the candidate's name to the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) with an institutional recommendation for obtaining Arizona state teacher certification in Mild to Moderate Special Education, grades K-12. Institutional recommendation does not automatically grant the candidate state teacher certification. The student must personally apply for teacher certification with ADE. A program/enrollment GPA of 3.0 or higher must be earned for institutional recommendation/graduation.

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Contact Information: Cara Steiner cara.steiner@centralaz.edu

Area of Interest Website: [Education Central Arizona College \(centralaz.edu\)](http://Education Central Arizona College (centralaz.edu))

Spring Start- Year 1

Students must complete the program within three years.

	COURSE	CREDITS	SEMESTER/GRADE	NOTES
CC	EDU221PB Introduction to Education PB	2		
CC	EDU222 Introduction to Special Education	3		
CC	EDU275 Writing Across Content Areas	3		
Semester Credits:		8	Meet with your CAC advisor and plan your path!	

Semester 2- Summer

	COURSE	CREDITS	SEMESTER/GRADE	NOTES
CC	EDU320A Structured Literacy A: The Science of Reading and Phonics	3		EDU320A fulfills part A of the K-5 Literacy Endorsement.
	POS220 US and Arizona Constitutions	0-3		(if needed for certification)
Semester Credits:		3-6	Research Career and Transfer Opportunities!	

Semester 3- Fall

	COURSE	CREDITS	SEMESTER/GRADE	NOTES
CC	EDU302 Educational Psychology	3		
CC	ESE346 Legal Aspects and Ethical Practice in Special Education	3		
CC	ESE347 Foundations of Instruction- Mild to Moderate Disabilities	3		
Semester Credits:		9	Meet with your advisor each semester.	

Semester 4- Spring (Year 2)

	COURSE	CREDITS	SEMESTER/GRADE	NOTES
CC	EDU330 Math Methods: Numbers, Operations, Proportions, Measurement, and Reasoning (content focus K-5), <u>OR</u> EDU331 Math Methods: Geometry, Algebra, Statistics, Ratio, Probability, K-8 (content focus in grades 6-8)	3		
CC	ESE345 Introduction to Speech and Language Disorders in the Classroom	3		
CC	ESE348 Methods of Instruction- Mild to Moderate Disabilities	3		
Semester Credits:		9	Finish strong-don't get distracted before finals!	

Semester 5- Summer

	COURSE	CREDITS	SEMESTER/GRADE	NOTES
CC	EDU320B Structured Literacy B: Instruction, Assessment, Intervention, and Dyslexia	3		EDU320B fulfills part B of the K-5 Literacy Endorsement.
	EDU240 Structured English Immersion	0-3		(if teaching in ELD setting)
Semester Credits:		3-6	**Complete the Foundations of Reading Exam.	

Semester 6- Fall

	COURSE	CREDITS	SEMESTER/GRADE	NOTES
CC	EDU332 Mathematics Strategies, Assessment, and Intervention	3		
CC	ESE344 Introduction to IEPs: Behavior, Transition Planning, and Field Experience	3		
CC	ESE349 Diagnosis and Assessment of Mild to Moderate Disabilities	3		

Semester Credits:

9

****Complete the Professional Knowledge Exam.**

Apply for Graduation and attend transfer events!

Semester 7- Spring (Year 3)

	COURSE	CREDITS	SEMESTER/GRADE	NOTES
CC	ESE390B Field Experience in Special Education (9-12), Teacher in Residence	2		
CC	ESE480A Student Teaching Alternative: Mild to Moderate Special Education Grades K-8, TIR	8		Field Experience for an Alternative candidate in a K-8 Special Education setting includes 45 Practicum hours in a 9-12 classroom and 12-weeks of Student Teaching in a K-8 classroom

Semester Credits:

10

Meet with Advisor for Exit Interview.

Total Certificate Credits:

51

For 2026-2027 Arizona Resident Tuition, please visit [Paying for College](#). Financial aid may be available.

K-8 Teacher Certification

*Candidates applying for K-8 teaching certification are required to demonstrate professional knowledge and subject knowledge proficiency through Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessments.

More information is available at [Arizona Department of Education Website](#)

At the end of the first semester: Elementary Education Subtest I (NT102) and Subtest II (NT103) *

At the end of the second semester/summer session: Professional Knowledge Test (NT051) *

At the end of the third semester/summer session: Foundations of Reading Exam (SA190) *

Career Information

[CAC Career Center](#) FREE CAC career resources and assistance.

[Arizona Department of Education Website](#)

Visit [O*NET OnLine](#) and search for Education needed for specific occupations.

- Occupation tasks, knowledge, skills, and abilities
- Salary/wages for specific occupations (\$)

Note: Use this Program Map as a guide to track your progress from semester to semester as you complete course work for earning your Arizona teaching certificate through the Arizona Department of Education. Work with the program advisor(s) to ensure completion of each phase in the program.

Student Name: _____

Advisor Name: _____

Student ID Number: 880 _____

Date: _____