

Metropolitan Educational Training Alliance Alternative Licensure Program for Special Education

Agreement

The counties of Chesterfield, Hanover, Henrico and the city of Richmond Public Schools in partnership with the School of Education at Virginia Commonwealth University have created a META (Metropolitan Educational Training Alliance) Alternative Licensure Program for Special Education with the following covenants:

Purpose:

To aid instructional assistants to earn a collegiate (K-12) professional license and become special education teachers in one of three areas of special education (emotional disturbance, learning disabilities or mental retardation).

Roles and Responsibilities:

VCU shall:

Provide a cohort program with a prescribed sequence of courses.

Offer all courses to participants (who sign up for the correct course or course section) at the “off-campus” course rate.

Allow participants the opportunity to earn an M.Ed. degree by allowing up to 15 credit hours from the cohort program to count toward the M.Ed. degree (with a possible additional 3 credit hours counted as a prerequisite for the M.Ed. degree).

Provide instructors for the following courses:

EMOD 500	Characteristics of Students with Emotional Disturbance
TEDU 533	Educational Assessment of Individuals with Exceptionalities
EMOD 501	Teaching Students with Emotional Disturbance
TEDU 631	Behavior Management of Students with Disabilities
TEDU 632	Secondary Programming for Students with Disabilities
SELD 600	Characteristics of Persons with Learning Disabilities
SELD 501	Methods of Clinical Teaching
SELD 677	Transition and Lifespan Issues for Individuals with Learning Disabilities
MNRT 556	Introduction to Mental Retardation
MNRT 560	Curriculum Design for Students with Mental Retardation

Participating school systems shall:

Identify and recommend qualified instructional aides for the META program.

Provide a list of qualified* and willing instructors (and contact information) to teach the selected courses listed below. The school system will provide this list to VCU by May 1st of each year. (VCU will select the instructor for the course from the pool of instructors from the four school systems.)

The four courses are:

TEDU 500	Language and Reading Disabilities
TEDU 681	Investigation and Trends in Teaching: Special Education Law
TEDU 500	Seminar I
TEDU 500	Seminar II

* These individuals must have the minimum of a master's degree.

Participants shall:

Have a contract as an instructional assistant with one of the four school divisions.

Be employed as a special education paraprofessional during the first year of the program.

Take the prescribed courses as a cohort and sign up only for META specified courses or course sections. The above insures that the group of META participants "travel" through the program as a cohort. Courses must be taken in the sequence and times prescribed. Students who do not take the prescribed courses at the prescribed times are at risk of losing their META participant standing. Further, signing up for the wrong course or course section will incur additional cost that the student will have to bear.

Program Information:

Detailed information on the META Alternative Licensure Program for Special Education is attached. This information is intended to address questions raised by prospective candidates and will be disseminated at informational meetings in each school division.

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