

Virginia Consortium for Teacher Preparation in Early Childhood Special Education

Dear Prospective Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the Virginia Consortium for Teacher Preparation in Early Childhood Special Education. This program, funded by the Virginia Department of Education, is designed to prepare qualified teachers to work with children birth to age five who have disabilities in Virginia. To achieve this goal, we a) accept qualified applicants to participate in the Consortium, b) provide them with state-approved coursework in four of the courses required for endorsement in Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE), and c) pay a portion of their in-state tuition (through tuition waivers) for endorsement coursework completed successfully. *Applicants must achieve a grade of B or better in order for the tuition waiver to be in effect.*

Currently, two universities are participating in the Consortium: Radford University and Lynchburg College. Courses have been approved by the Virginia Department of Education, and are offered at a rate of two courses per university, fall and spring semesters. These courses include Assessment in ECSE, Curriculum and Instruction in ECSE, Medical Aspects of Young Children with Disabilities, and Family Centered Programming, which are among those required by the Virginia Department of Education for endorsement in ECSE. (Note: the specific titles of these four courses are different, depending the institution in which you are enrolled.)

Students who desire to participate in the program enroll at either Radford University or Lynchburg College and take courses at the university setting where they are enrolled, or at distance sites. One or more distance sites are identified according to student location and need. Courses are taught at all university and distance sites simultaneously via interactive, distance education technology. Some courses also require one or more all-day Saturday face-to-face sessions for which all students are required to travel to the closest university (Radford University or Lynchburg College). If face-to-face meetings are required, this information is typically announced on the first night of class.

Many individuals who will apply and participate in the program are special education teachers working with preschool children with disabilities in the public schools, though not fully licensed; but this is not a requirement. Applicants may apply to either participating university as a non-degree seeking graduate student to earn their endorsement, or to earn a master's degree plus endorsement in ECSE. Participation in a master's degree program may be on a part-time or full-time basis. The application process to participate in the Consortium involves two levels of application: a) to the university/college, and b) to the Virginia Consortium for Teacher Preparation in Early Childhood Special Education. [Note: students have a choice of applying to either Lynchburg College or Radford University.] When applying to the university/college for admission to the School of Education, candidates apply for either professional development status (endorsement only, non-degree) or master's degree status. All Consortium applications

must be submitted via email.

The Consortium awards a limited number of tuition waivers to applicants who meet the requirements. These waivers are awarded at the beginning of each semester. Students must maintain grades of “B” or better to retain funding. Students are required to purchase all books and supplies for the courses. Courses taken through the Consortium program can be applied for re-certification points, with approval from the student’s school division.

Students accepted into the program are required to use email communication, maintain regular class attendance, communicate with course instructors about individual needs, prepare papers that conform to American Psychological Association (APA) style, and engage in class discussions as active participants. Prior to beginning coursework, participants typically attend an orientation session on the use of distance education technology at their respective university site.

In order to be considered for this program, an applicant must either teach preschoolers with disabilities or have access to preschool children with disabilities in an educational setting. First preference will be given to school personnel who are currently working with preschool children with disabilities in all geographic areas of Virginia. Other applicants will also be considered.

Course offerings:

Fall Semester:

Medical Aspects (Dr. Glenn Buck, LC)

Curriculum and Instruction (Dr. Kathleen Hoover, RU)

Spring Semester:

Family Centered Practices (Dr. Glenn Buck, LC)

Assessment in ECSE (Dr. Sharon Gilbert, RU)

Thank you again for your interest in this program. We look forward to receiving your application and hope that you will feel free to call or email me with any questions you may have about the program or application procedures.

Sincerely,

Dr. Glenn Buck,

Lynchburg College Consortium Site Coordinator and Instructor

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