

## SPECIAL EDUCATION MARKETING OF ADDED AUTHORIZATIONS

### SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS

To be a teacher in special education you need to have a credential that authorizes you to teach in one of the basic areas. National offers programs leading to 3 such basic areas: mild / moderate, moderate / severe and deaf and hard-of-hearing.

Once you have obtained a preliminary credential in one of these three areas you can add authorizations. You can add one of the other two authorizations from the basic programs, and you can add several other authorizations too. National offers two programs that can be only be added to a basic special education credential. They are the Autism Added Authorization program and the Early Childhood Special Education Added Authorization program.

For example, if you have a credential with an Education Specialist Preliminary Mild/Moderate authorization you can ADD

Moderate / Severe and/or  
Deaf Hard-of-Hearing.

A second example, if you have a credential with an Education Specialist Preliminary Mild/Moderate authorization you can ADD

Autism and/or  
Early Childhood Special Education

Addition of an authorization makes the candidate (theoretically) more capable and more marketable.

#### Caveats

1. Autism is part of the Old Moderate/Severe credential so it cannot be added to that credential.
2. Adding Autism as an authorization now only works on the OLD credentials (M/M and DHH) because autism has been built in to the new programs and is included in the new programs.
3. Some universities have a basic credential program in Early Childhood Special Education but we do not. We offer Early Childhood Special Education only as an added authorization.
4. We would like to create a program (create the 4 authorization courses) for one more authorization that would be a basic credential. It is in the area of communication development and was only recently approved by CTC. We have planned on offering this since before I came to NU. We need to hire a person to prepare the courses.

#### Advantages

Individuals who hold basic general education credentials (Multiple Subject or Single Subject) would benefit by obtaining a special education credential because they could be assigned to teach either special education or general education by their employer....they are more marketable.

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Our new programs make it relatively easy for a person who holds a basic general education credential to add an special education credential because the first six courses are cleared by the candidate's basic general education credential.

Individuals who hold an Old Level I or Level II special education M/M or DHH credential are more marketable if they also have Autism authorization; many have been required to obtain such authorization, hence, the increase in numbers in this program. But this is a finite number of people who will benefit.

Individuals who hold an Old Level I or Level II special education credential are also more marketable if they have Early Childhood Special Education authorization. Not too many actually want to work with very young children, however...it is a rather special person.

Individuals who hold obtain a new Preliminary special education credential are also more marketable if they later add Early Childhood Special Education authorization.

Our new Preliminary programs address the new state standards, include newly designed courses with the most current information and are available for on site, hybrid or online delivery, making it convenient for candidates.