

**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION  
CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS FOR  
BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED (GRADES B-12)**

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**SPECIAL EDUCATION MAJORS**

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**I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:**

- A.** A baccalaureate degree from a college or university having a teacher education program approved by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education or from a college or university having a teacher education program approved by the state education agency in states other than Missouri;
- B.** Must have recommendation of designated official for teacher education in the college or university;
- C.** Must have a grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale overall and in the major area of study;
- D.** Must complete the content knowledge or specialty area test designated by the State Board of Education with a score equal to or greater than the Missouri qualifying score;
- E.** Completion of professional requirements as determined by the recommending college or university, which may exceed these minimum requirements; and
- F.** Individuals who completed their teacher education program outside of the United States shall provide documentation of completion of course work in the following:
  - 1.** English Composition, two (2) courses, each a minimum of two (2) semester hours;
  - 2.** U.S. History, three (3) semester hours; and
  - 3.** U.S. Government, three (3) semester hours.

**II. PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS:** A minimum of sixty (60) semester hours of professional preparation. Competency must be demonstrated in each topic listed to the satisfaction of the teacher preparation institution.

**A. Foundations of Teaching** (Minimum requirement of twelve (12) semester hours):

- 1.** Foundations of Education;
- 2.** School Organization and Management;
- 3.** Personalized Teaching Strategies;
- 4.** Child Growth and Development;
- 5.** \*\*Child Psychology;
- 6.** \*\*Adolescent Psychology;
- 7.** Psychology of Learning;
- 8.** \*Psychology and/or Education of the Exceptional Child (including the Gifted);
- 9.** Introduction to Special Education;
- 10.** \*Introduction to Blind and Partially Sighted;
- 11.** \*Evaluation of Abilities and Achievement (instruction in interpretation of individualized intelligence tests, formal and informal diagnostic procedures, and in prescriptive instruction);
- 12.** \*Anatomy, Physiology, and Diseases of the Eye;
- 13.** Screening and Identification of the Handicapped; and
- 14.** \*Career Education or Career Development;

**B. Teaching Methods** (Minimum requirement of twenty-eight (28) semester hours):

- 1.** \*Methods of Teaching the Blind and Partially Sighted;
- 2.** \*Methods of Teaching Reading—eight (8) semester hours (shall include course work in teaching remedial reading);
- 3.** \*Methods of Teaching Mathematics—five (5) semester hours (shall include course work in teaching remedial mathematics);

4. Language Arts;
  5. Science;
  6. Social Studies;
  7. Children's Literature;
  8. School Health Education;
  9. \*Language Development of the Exceptional Child;
  10. \*Counseling Techniques (to include communication skills with exceptional children and families of exceptional children);
  11. \*Orientation and Mobility Training;
  12. \*Conservation and Use of Limited Vision;
  13. Visual Aids and Appliance Usage;
  14. \*Reading and Writing Braille; and
  15. \*Behavior Management Techniques; and
- C. Clinical Experiences\*\*\*** (Minimum requirement of ten (10) semester hours):
1. \*Field experiences in a regular classroom prior to student teaching;
  2. Practicum, directed teaching and clinical experience (eight (8) semester hours) in:
    - a. Teaching blind and partially sighted students;
    - b. Interpretation of individualized intelligence tests, formal and informal diagnostic procedures, and in prescriptive instruction; and
    - c. Practical application of behavior management techniques.

*\*Required courses of at least two (2) semester hours unless otherwise specified.*

*\*\*One (1) combined course of at least three (3) semester hours in Child and Adolescent Psychology may meet these two (2) required courses.*

*\*\*\*Persons certificated in Behaviorally Disordered, Mentally Handicapped, Physical and Other Health Impairments, or Learning Disabled may meet this Clinical Experiences requirement by the satisfactory completion of at least three (3) semester hours of Practicum with Blind and Partially Sighted students.*

*Revised January 2008*

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**ELEMENTARY OR SECONDARY EDUCATION MAJORS**

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**I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:**

Applicant must hold a valid Missouri elementary, middle school, or secondary teaching certificate and complete ALL requirements shown below.

**II. PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS\*:**

These shall be met by courses of at least two (2) semester hours, unless otherwise specified.

**A. Foundations for Teaching:**

1. \*\*Child Psychology;
2. \*\*Adolescent Psychology;
3. Psychology and/or Education of the Exceptional Child (including the Gifted);
4. **Introduction to Blind and Partially Sighted;**
5. Evaluation of Abilities and Achievement (instruction in interpretation of individualized intelligence tests, formal and informal diagnostic procedures, and in prescriptive instruction);
6. Anatomy, Physiology, and Diseases of the Eye; and
7. Career Education or Career Development;

**B. Teaching Methods:**

1. Methods of Teaching the Blind and Partially Sighted (to include the use of visual aids and appliances);
2. Methods of Teaching Reading—eight (8) semester hours (shall include course work in teaching remedial reading);
3. Methods of Teaching Mathematics—five (5) semester hours (shall include course work in teaching remedial mathematics);
4. Language Development of the Exceptional Child;
5. Counseling Techniques (to include communication skills with exceptional children and families of exceptional children);
6. Reading and Writing Braille;
7. Conservation and Use of Limited Vision;
8. Orientation and Mobility Training; and
9. Behavior Management Techniques; and

**C. Clinical Experiences\*\*\* (Minimum requirement of six (6) semester hours\*\*\*\*):**

Practicum, directed teaching and clinical experience in:

1. Teaching blind and partially sighted students;
2. Interpretation of individualized tests; and
3. Practical application of behavior management techniques.

*\*These may be met by courses taken as part of the baccalaureate degree.*

*\*\*One (1) combined course of at least three (3) semester hours in Child and Adolescent Psychology may meet these two (2) required courses.*

*\*\*\*Persons certificated in Behaviorally Disordered, Mentally Handicapped, Physical and Other Health Impairments, or Learning Disabled may meet this Clinical Experiences requirement by the satisfactory completion of at least three (3) semester hours of Practicum with Blind and Partially Sighted students.*

*\*\*\*\*Teachers with two (2) or more years of teaching experience may meet this requirement with three (3) semester hours.*