

OPEN LETTER TO: **TEACHER CANDIDATES IN THE SPECIAL EDUCATION CREDENTIAL PROGRAM**

FROM: Special Education Program Faculty
(Drs. Powell, Torgerson, Shen, & Nusbaum)

DATE: March 17, 2011

RE: New Education Specialist Credential(s) based on new state standards

This letter serves to share with all of our students the changes in special education credential programs due to new standards mandated by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC). Based on the new standards all special education credential programs were required to revise their programs. The revised program at Fresno State has been approved by all required university committees and has also been approved by the State. The Mild/Moderate program will be offered *each semester*; while the Moderate/Severe program will only begin *each fall semester*. All new student orientations will feature the revised program.

Students (Teacher Candidates) who entered the Education Specialist program in **Spring 2011** seeking the Mild/Moderate credential are in the revised program. The revised program has a Preliminary Credential and a Professional Clear Credential.

Teacher Candidates who entered the program in Spring 2011 seeking the Moderate/Severe credential will continue in the original program. Those Teacher Candidates who entered prior to Spring 2011 will continue in the original program. The original program has a Level 1 at which candidates earn their preliminary credential and a Level II at which they earn a clear credential. The CCTC has set **January 31, 2013** as the date at which teacher candidates in the original program must complete Level I.

The revised Education Specialist Preliminary Credential programs in Mild/Moderate and Moderate/Severe were developed to meet the expectations of teachers today with increased and improved experience in the field, work in inclusive settings, and access to core curriculum/standards. The revised programs also include the Autism Spectrum Disorder authorization within the program. This new program is sequenced with increased content exposure in science, math and the arts, and work towards Teacher Performance Expectations.

The revised programs have been developed for those earning the Preliminary Education Specialist credential (option including the Early Childhood emphasis), DUAL – the Education Specialist credential and Multiple Subject credential (option including the Early Childhood emphasis) and the Internship program option for those who have been hired prior to completing the Preliminary Education Specialist

credential. Please review each program by going to the Kremen website at www.csufresno.edu/kremen.

The new Professional Clear Education Specialist credential will be developed this year and offered for the first time in Spring 2013.

Level II will continue to be offered to teacher candidates in the original program. For candidates entering Level II in the near future, you are advised to meet with faculty to determine the best courses/experiences for your electives. Many candidates may elect to take the Added Autism Authorization courses to meet the elective unit requirement in Level II while meeting state requirements for serving students identified on the spectrum. The CCTC has currently set **January, 2015** as the date at which teacher candidates in the original program must complete Level II.

Candidates are always advised to meet with program faculty to plan the completion of their program. If you are a student who has interrupted your credential completion by taking a semester off, please schedule an appointment to determine if you will be able to complete the original program by January, 2013.

Working in our field of special education is challenging, rigorous and rewarding. The students and their families deserve nothing less than a well-prepared teacher who is a life long learner. The Kremen School Special Education Credential Program has incorporated changes to prepare exemplary teachers and leaders in our field. We are pleased you selected our program for preparation and encourage you to review the revised program and seek advising as you complete your program.

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