

**Director of Special Education Certification Program, Level 1**  
**Department of Special Education & Rehabilitation Counseling**  
**University of Kentucky**

UK's Director of Special Education (DSE) Certificate program is structured for cohorts that begin in the fall of each academic year. Qualified individuals may apply at any time, and we welcome your application.

The program is a Level I program that results in the entry-level credential required to work as a Director of Special Education in Kentucky schools. It is available to individuals who meet any one of these sets of prerequisites:

- (1) A master's degree and a minimum of three years of teaching in special education,
- (2) Completion of a Fifth Year, Rank II program and three years of teaching in special education, or
- (3) A valid Kentucky School Psychologist certificate and three years of practice in special education.

UK's Director of Special Education Certificate (Level 1) program is a state-approved 15-credit program with the following requirements:

- EDS 602 Administration and Supervision in Special Education (3 credits)-Fall
- EDS 730 Seminar in Special Education Supervision (3 credits)-Spring
- EDS 731 Practicum in Special Education Administration (3 – 6 credits)-Summer
- EDS 613 Legal & Parental Issues School Administration (3 credits)-Spring or Summer  
or EDL 628 School Law and Ethics (3 credits)
- EDL 627 School Finance & Support Services (3 credits)

Please note the semesters in which the special education (EDS) classes are offered. The educational leadership (EDL) courses typically are available each semester at UK, and they may be transferred from other colleges or universities.

The Kentucky Department of Education Traineeship Program will pay for 9 consecutive credit hours in the DSE program. If you are interested in obtaining a traineeship award, please contact Ms. Tonya Sleet for application information (see below).

Dr. Deborah Slaton serves as academic advisor to students in the DSE Program, Mr. Charlie Muntz, an experienced former director of special education is the primary instructor, and Ms. Tonya Sleet provides staff support for the program.

If you currently are not enrolled in a UK graduate-level program, you will need to apply for admission or re-admission to the Graduate School as a Rank I student. The above 15 credits may be part of a Rank I program which requires an additional contract. If you apply after the date to enter a program or already hold Rank I, you may enter as a post-baccalaureate non-degree student and change your status during your first semester.

If you have not already filled out an application to our department, you will need to do that as well. If you have any questions please call Tonya Sleet, at 859-257-7908 or write her at tmslee0@uky.edu. Thank you for your interest in this program, and we look forward to working with you.