

Work And Learn: Special Education License



Program Goal

Work And Learn Program aims to recruit, prepare, retain and support highly qualified paraprofessionals and effective teachers including candidates from underrepresented backgrounds who reflect our diverse student populations on their journey to become a Tier 3 licensed teacher. It provides an affordable, accessible, and accelerated program to earn a Minnesota teaching license and master's degree in 2 years.

Who Should Apply

Individuals who are dedicated to education, are current or prospective employees of one of the partner districts and have a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.

What Will the Program Look Like?

- Participants will be employed as teachers of record or paraprofessionals by school district.
- Participants will have a flexible schedule based on district preferences in a cohort model of 18-25 students.
 - Online, face-to-face, or combination of online and face-to-face courses
 - Courses that the University of St. Thomas and/or district site
 - One-two evenings a week
 - No more than two courses at a time with three courses completed per semester (two 8-week courses and one 16-week course).

Year 1				Year 2		
Fall	Jterm	Spring	Summer	Fall	Jterm	Spring
- Standards of Effective Practice - Classroom Engagement - Effective Teaching and Learning - Field Experience (on the job)	- Educational Equity & Inclusive Practices - Field Experience (on the job)	- Literacy Development - Fundamental Courses in Special Education - Field Experience (on the job)	- Special Education Courses	- Special Education Courses - Student Teaching (on the job)	- Disability Specific Method Courses	- Student Teaching (on the job) - Master's Research Course

After 1st License
The University of St. Thomas makes it very easy to add on 1 to 5 additional licenses with 2-3 additional courses.

What Does The Program Cost?

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|--|------------|
| Initial Academic Behavior Strategist | 31 credits |
| Add on Master's Degree | 3 credits |
| Add on Second License
(Autism Spectrum Disorder, Early Childhood Special Education, Developmental Cognitive Disabilities, Emotional Behavior Disorder, Learning Disabilities) | 9 credits |
- University of St. Thomas tuition for MA degree
 - Cost of books is an additional fee and varies by course
 - Financial aid available
 - Participants may be eligible for student loan forgiveness while teaching
 - Participants of color may be eligible for scholarship and grants

Why This Path to Teaching?

- Participants will be employed as teachers of record or paraprofessionals by school district
- Lower tuition costs as less credits required for this nonconventional pathway
- Candidates in paid positions in schools during coursework and student teaching on the job
- Flexible course formats: Districts choose between face-to-face, online, or hybrid
- Supportive cohort model where candidates complete courses with peers
- Most courses offered at district locations saving travel time and costs
- Candidates save time as advising and course registration built into program

How to Begin the Process

Contact Barbara Jo Stahl - bjstahl@stthomas.edu - with your school's interests.

The University of St. Thomas will work with planning team members to create a Work And Learn serving program specific to your district. District teachers will be recruited to co-teacher Work And Learn courses with the University of St. Thomas faculty members.



For more information Apply Now!

WAL East Contacts

- Intermediate School District 917 & Member Districts
Lauren Kelley (lauren.kelly@isd917.org)
- Rosemount Apple Valley Egan District 196
Andrea Engstrom (Andrea.Engstrom@district196.org)
- Northeast Metro Intermediate School District 916
& Member Districts
Colleen Robinson (crobinso@916schools.org)

WAL North Contact

- Anoka-Hennepin District 11
Julie Phillips (Julie.Phillips@ahschools.us)

WAL SouthWest Contact

- SouthWest Metro Intermediate School District 288
& Member Districts
Melanie Kray (workandlearn@swmetro.k12.mn.us)

Wal Midwest Contact

- Robbinsdale Area Schools District 281 & Surrounding
Districts
Tamuriel Grace (Tamuriel_grace@rdale.org)

Winter Info Sessions

- Wednesday, February 3rd - 12:00pm
- Tuesday, February 9th - 7:00pm
- Thursday, February 18th - 12:00pm
- Monday, February 22nd - 7:00pm
- Thursday, March 4th - 7:00pm
- Tuesday, March 9th - 12:00pm

<https://stthomas.zoom.us/j/9522502057>