

KU- SOARS

KU- Strengthening Outcomes for All Students in Regular Settings

Mission

To ensure that students with severe disabilities have the opportunity to experience an inclusive education by preparing teacher scholars in high-quality, inclusive assessment, planning, teaching, and collaboration skills.

To achieve this, KU-SOARS seeks to provide funding for scholars to complete coursework, attend a national conference, and engage in supervised teaching activities. We anticipate funding 8 scholars each year who are committed to promoting and supporting inclusive education for students with severe disabilities. The scholarship funding is from the US Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP).

KU-SOARS scholars will earn a Master's of Science in Education (MSEd) degree as well as obtain full endorsement in low-incidence special education.

Eligibility

- US Citizen
- Agreement to complete the Service Obligations post-program.
- A graduate-level student
- Demonstrated commitment to inclusive education for all students
- Past experience with youth with low-incidence disabilities and their families
- A commitment to teach in US schools, teaching students with low-incidence disabilities, in general education settings following graduation
- Meet eligibility requirements for admission to KU Special Education MSEd program
- Demonstrate skills in:
 - » Promoting high-quality inclusive practices
 - » Teaching students with low-incidence disabilities in inclusive general education
 - » Action research methods
 - » Collaboration and co-planning
 - » Advocacy and systems change for inclusion
 - » Improving student learning outcomes
 - » Promote use of technology to deliver instruction, interventions, and services
 - » Engage in professional and ethical advocacy and decision-making practices

Program Components

Coursework

- Complete 36 hour program of study* leading to MEd and endorsement in low-incidence special education. Typical enrollment: 2 courses per semester for part-time students and 3 courses per semester for full-time students

*individual allowances for completed coursework

Fieldwork

- Demonstrate competencies in high-quality instructional practices through supervised fieldwork
- Participate in seminars related to fieldwork experiences

Portfolio Development

- Demonstrate skills and knowledge related to inclusive instruction
- Develop skills in research and self-reflection

Conferences and Institutes

- Funding to attend one national conference
- Attend summer seminars with presentations from leading researchers, self-advocates, and family members in inclusive education

Student Support

- Student organizations and activities on the KU campus
- Partnerships with schools, including professional development schools
- Collaborate with state teacher preparation programs
- On-going mentorship in first year of induction
- Career and academic advisement

Anticipated Outcomes

- MEd in Special Education
- Teaching endorsement in low-incidence disabilities
- Portfolio of academic, career development and work-based learning focused on inclusive education and advocacy
- Increased competence in:
 - » Inclusive education
 - » School leadership and advocacy
 - » Technical knowledge and skills
 - » Personal, social and leadership development
 - » Community participation and engagement
 - » Financial support for program scholars

Estimated Tuition & Fees

(Based on 36 credit hour program of study. Tuition rates subject to change)

Estimated \$19,650 per study for 36 credit hour program (for costs associated with tuition/fees and travel to one conference)

Contact Information

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Grant Application

<https://deptsec.ku.edu/~admiss/forms/form/58>

