

## **State Employee's Credit Union (SECU) Partnership East Requirements**

The ECU College of Education offers online degree completion programs in Elementary Education, Middle Grades Education, and Special Education through the SECU Partnership East (PE) online degree completion program. Potential students should consider the following requirements.

### **Access to Technology**

To successfully participate in the program, all PE students should have access to reliable high-speed Internet, the minimum computer specifications, peripheral equipment, and software identified on the *Technology Requirements* document.

Students enrolled in SECU Partnership East have access to their coursework 24 hours a day, 7 days a week via the Internet. These online courses are taught by the same faculty as courses taught on campus. The readings, assignments, and exams mirror the on-campus sections. These programs include structured, well-designed courses and special instructional techniques to help students succeed in online learning.

Most courses are taught using a course management system such as Blackboard or Moodle, and modules are posted in a user-friendly format. The course management systems typically have tabs or folders in which instructors can post course information, course materials and assignments for students to access with ease. Assignments and homework are submitted electronically via email or through Blackboard, typically on a weekly basis. Many instructors give their tests online. Students will have a particular “window of opportunity” to log in and take tests.

In addition, to demonstrate technology competency and meet requirements for Upper Division, all applicants must have successfully completed CIS 110 at the community college prior to admission.

### **Fixed Plan of Study**

The Elementary Education degree completion program is offered both full- and part-time. The Special Education and Middle Grades Education degrees are offered part-time. The part-time degree models were designed to accommodate students who work or have additional commitments.

Students who are enrolled in PE are grouped into cohorts. A cohort is a group of students that begin the program together, follow the same course planner, and graduate together. As a member of a cohort, students may not drop courses or change the pace of the program. The full-time Elementary Education and part-time Special Education cohorts begin their program in the Summer II semester. The part-time Elementary Education and Middle Grades cohorts begin in the fall semester.

## **Face-to-Face Sessions**

Although coursework is delivered online, periodic face-to-face meetings are required. Students are given advanced notice of all face-to-face sessions to prepare for travel and work considerations. Students will be required to attend the mandatory PE orientation the summer before beginning the degree completion program. They will also be required to attend one or more annual face-to-face sessions at a geographical location to be determined. The PE Coordinator will provide the date and location(s) of these sessions to students. During the senior year, all students will be required to come to the ECU campus to attend three mandatory senior seminars (Senior I meeting, Senior II initial meeting, and Senior II final seminar). Additionally, students who reside within the Latham Clinical Schools Network (LCSN) will be required to attend the COE Career Fair if offered during their Senior II internship semester. Additional sessions may be added as needed.

## **Advising Sessions**

In addition to required meetings, PE cohort students will be required to “meet” with their advisor each semester for advising. At these advising sessions, students will discuss with their advisor the completion of all prerequisite general education courses, progress in current courses, and future scheduled courses – as listed on the course planner. These advising sessions will be conducted through video conferencing, phone conversations, or face-to-face meetings. The PE advisor will schedule these sessions in advance of registration.

## **NC Community College Connection and Residency**

This degree completion partnership is designed specifically for students who transition from a North Carolina community college. Students must be residents of NC to participate in our degree completion program. If a student moves out of state, he or she will no longer be eligible to remain in the program.

## **Face-to-Face Field Experiences**

Field experiences (i.e. Practicum) in NC public school classrooms will be required throughout the program. These generally require 15 to 40 clock hours in schools each semester.

Two internships will be required in the senior year. During Senior I, students will be expected to report to their NC public school assignment one day each week. During Senior II, students will complete a 15-week, full-time internship in NC public schools. Students may be required to resign from any employment or take a leave of absence in order to complete Senior II. There are specific guidelines established for those employed as teacher assistants.