### ABOUT THE PATHWAY

Candidates in the 4+1 accelerated pathway begin the required graduate coursework for the early childhood exceptional/special education master’s program during their senior year of undergraduate study. Candidates may complete a maximum of nine (9) credit hours during the undergraduate senior year. Candidates may then continue to complete the remainder of their graduate coursework to fulfill the program requirements for their master’s degree.

This 4+1 accelerated pathway leads to eligibility for the following NYS teaching certifications:

1. Students with Disabilities (Special Education), Grades 1–6 — upon completion of undergraduate degree
2. Childhood Education (General Education), Grades 1–6 — upon completion of undergraduate degree
3. Early Childhood (Special Education), Birth-2nd Grade — upon completion of one or two graduate semesters
4. Early Childhood (General Education), Birth-2nd Grade — upon completion of one or two graduate semesters

Candidates accepted to the accelerated pathway must follow the curriculum map as outlined in order to complete the program as scheduled. Candidates must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 before enrollment in any graduate course in the accelerated pathway and must earn a minimum grade of “B” in their first early childhood special education course in order to continue with the graduate portion of the accelerated pathway. Candidates are formally admitted to the Graduate School following verification of completion of bachelor’s degree requirements and acceptance of the graduate application. Upon formal admission to the Graduate School, earned graduate credit is applied to the graduate course of study and all graduate policies and privileges apply. Graduate application fees are waived for students in the 4+1 accelerated pathway.

### APPLYING TO THE 4+1 ACCELERATED PATHWAY

Students enter the 4+1 accelerated pathway either as incoming freshmen or at any point in their undergraduate degree program. Interested candidates must submit to the Exceptional Education Department a written statement of commitment to the major that clearly demonstrates why they are selecting the 4+1 option for early childhood special education. The statement must affirm the candidate’s intent to remain at Buffalo State for both undergraduate and graduate studies. The writing sample is assessed by the faculty as an essential part of a successful application.

Application packets for the Special Education Childhood and Early Childhood 4+1 accelerated pathway are available in the Exceptional Education Department, located in 204 Ketchum Hall. Please visit or call the department at (716) 878-3038 with questions or to make an appointment with a 4+1 accelerated pathway adviser.

**Admission Requirements**

**General (Undergraduate)**

- Entering freshmen must have a minimum high school average of 85.
- Undergraduates must submit SAT or ACT scores for successful admission to the pathway. Current Buffalo State students who are changing majors and applying in their junior year may submit GRE or MAT scores instead.*
- Students who have completed one semester of full-time undergraduate study or at least 12 credit hours of college study must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.

*Candidates accepted to the Special Education Childhood and Early Childhood 4+1 accelerated pathway must complete the coursework as undergraduates. Undergraduates are not required to submit GRE or MAT scores as required by SUNY for graduate teacher education programs if they have already submitted SAT or ACT scores for acceptance to the undergraduate portion of the pathway.

**Transfer**

- Transfer students from two-year and other four-year institutions follow the same institutional admission requirements as other students transferring to Buffalo State teacher education programs.
- Acceptance of courses from other institutions to the special education Childhood and Early Childhood 4+1 course sequence is contingent on courses that have transfer equivalency to courses in the Buffalo State 4+1 accelerated pathway.
- Undergraduates must submit SAT or ACT scores. Current SUNY students who are changing majors and applying in their junior year may submit GRE or MAT scores instead.
- Transfer students should speak to a department chair before applying. Please call the Exceptional Education Department at (716) 878-3038 with questions or to arrange an appointment.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Exceptional Education Department

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