

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION: Certification Information/ Licensing**

*The following information (updated 8/19) is based on current guidelines issued by the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE).*

### **Certification: “Highly Qualified” in Special Education (K-12)**

SPED teachers that are in a “self-contained” classroom, provide direct instruction, and assess core subject area grades, must be highly qualified (HQ). In order to be highly qualified, SPED teachers must have the HQ endorsement on their teaching license.

#### **Praxis Test Information:**



Special Education – [5354]



Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT)

Note: Choose **one** PLT:

[K-6: 5622] OR

[K-9: 5623] OR

[7-12: 5624]

(Also required to teach self-contained):



▶ Special Education Fundamental Subjects HQ – [5511]\*

\*This exam allows SPED teachers to be highly qualified in the core areas of science, social studies, English and mathematics K-12 while working with special education students.

For more information on registering for Praxis exams, go to:

<https://www.ets.org/praxis/ms/requirements/>

#### **OR**

You may take the (1) PLT (see above) and (2) Special Education Praxis tests and add a content-specific endorsement through 21 hours of coursework with a grade of “C” or higher OR by taking and passing a specialty area Praxis test (any content area). \*Please note: If you choose this option, you would be highly qualified in this specialty area ONLY in teaching either special education or regular education students.

**How do I get more information on endorsements?** Go to the Mississippi Department of Educator Licensure link at: <https://www.mdek12.org/OEL> and then click on “How To Add An Endorsement To My License”

*Your degree program in SPED at UM qualifies you for licensure in both **Mild/Moderate** and **Severe/Profound** disabilities in the State of Mississippi.*

#### **Questions regarding licensure may be directed to:**

Mississippi Department of Educator Licensure (601) 359-3483

Dr. Whitney Webb, UM Certification Officer (662) 915-7382 /

[whitdt@olemiss.edu](mailto:whitdt@olemiss.edu)