What is PEPSE/CHILI

Through a grant funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Old Dominion University via ODUOnline is pleased to offer a Master’s of Science Degree program in Education designed to prepare special educators to work with students with low incidence disabilities. Low incidence disabilities (LID) encompass a small percentage (12.8%) of the total student population, receiving special education services under IDEA (www.ideadata.org) and are identified under seven federal IDEA categories: visual impairments, hearing impairments, simultaneous vision and hearing impairments, significant intellectual disabilities, orthopedic impairments, autism, and traumatic brain injury.

PEPSE/CHILI’s curriculum coursework, supervised field-based experiences, and teaching internships address the diverse attributes and deficits of students with low incidence disabilities. Additionally, scholars may specialize by concurrently enrolling in disability specific elective courses which will increase their knowledge base specific to a disability category resulting in an advanced knowledge and skill set. For example, in addition to the licensure endorsement in the Adapted Academic Curriculum, scholars may earn a certification in Autism Spectrum Disorders, Visual Impairment, or Applied Behavior Analysis.

Tuition Assistance Opportunity

Through this grant program, we are offering 100% tuition assistance to qualified candidates. Scholars may enroll into the program either full-time or part-time, but are required to complete the program in a three-year time period and within the time frame of the grant program.

Service Obligation

As a condition for tuition assistance support, scholars are required to sign and fulfill the service obligation agreement which states that upon graduation, the scholar will provide special education services for students with low incidence disabilities for a period of two years for every academic year for which the tuition assistance support was received.

For additional information

For additional information or to apply to the PEPSE/CHILI program, contact Jonna Bobzien, Department of Special Education at (757)683-3307 or email at jbobzien@odu.edu

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