

UTRGV

EDUCATIONAL DIAGNOSTICIAN CERTIFICATION

About the Program

- 5 Course, 15 hour certification program
- Courses are taught fully online
- Can be completed in as few as 10 months
- Candidates must enter the program with a Master's degree in education or a related field, and a teaching certificate
- Candidates must have an agreement with a school district in which the district agrees to provide a mentor Educational Diagnostician and access to standardized assessment instruments used in the identification of students with disabilities.

Rationale for the Online Program

- In 2014-2015, special education faculty at UTPA created and implemented a 30-hour online Special Education Master's.
- The program was adopted by the department when UTPA and UTB were consolidated into UTRGV and was one of the first online graduate programs offered at the university.
- The rationale for offering the program online was to provide an affordable and flexible program that met the needs of busy professionals and to extend the reach of the program across the state.

- The majority of students who are currently in the Educational Diagnostician Certification program completed their Master's in the UTRGV online program and decided to complete the additional five courses in order to receive the advanced certification.
- Offering the program online provides greater access to an Educational Diagnostician program for rural districts that may not otherwise have access.

Benefits of District Partnership with Master's Candidates

- Districts play a significant role in training their own teachers to serve this important role in their district.
- Master's candidates learn the policies and procedures of their district as they prepare to become diagnosticians.
- By asking districts to provide access to standardized testing instruments, student fees are kept to a minimum, making the program more affordable.
- University faculty will continue to collaborate with district mentors and will use current technologies to do so.

5 Courses

- Introduction to Cognitive and Academic Assessment
(EPSY 6380)
- Advanced Cognitive and Academic Assessment
(EPSY 6381)
- Bilingual and Multicultural Psycho-educational Assessment
(EPSY 6382)
- Practicum in Diagnostic and Intervention Procedures I
(EPSY 6390)
- Practicum in Diagnostic and Intervention Procedures II
(EPSY 6391)

Accreditation and Blueprinting

- All online programs go through a rigorous blueprinting process to meet professional standards for online coursework.
- All faculty participating in the program must undergo training on providing effective online coursework.
- The Educational Diagnostician Certification Program will continue to meet CAEP standards for the College of Education & P-16 Integration accreditation.