



## BECOME CERTIFIED IN STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Certified teachers who seek an additional certification in Students with Disabilities at the same developmental level can fulfill certification requirements through the NYSUT Education & Learning Trust.

ELT courses that address the four required competency areas are:

Curriculum and Instruction  
SED 661: Cooperative Learning for SWD

Managing the Environment  
EDUC 503M: Methods & Materials SWD

Assessment, Diagnosis, and Evaluation  
EDUC 516M: Curricular Assessment and  
Behavior Management

Foundations of Special Education  
ENY 729: Inclusion: Education for All\*  
(available online)

To see where these courses are being offered, to go [www.nysut.org/elt](http://www.nysut.org/elt)

Individuals pursuing this additional certificate will apply on their own to the State Education Department, must pass the Content Specialty Test for Students with Disabilities and the attend the mandated training in meeting the needs of children with autism. For the SWD 7-12 Generalist certificate, additional liberal arts & sciences credits may be required. See FAQ.

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**Professional development designed to improve the  
quality of teaching and learning and advance your career**

Visit: [nysut.org/elt](http://nysut.org/elt) • Call: 800-528-6208 • 800 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, NY 12110



## **FAQs: Additional Certificate in Students with Disabilities (SWD)**

**Q: What are the actual requirements for an additional certificate in Students with Disabilities?**

A: The specific requirements are listed at <http://eservices.nysed.gov/teach/certhelp/CertRequirementHelp.do>, under “Pathway: Individual Evaluation for Additional Classroom Teaching Certificate”. Note that most of the requirements would have already been completed during your preparation for your current certificate, so typically most teachers need to address the 12 credits in the Specific Pedagogical Core, the SWD Content Specialty Test, and the Autism workshop.

**Q: I visited the site yet am still confused. I have a permanent teaching certificate and want the Students with Disabilities certificate, what do I need to do?**

A: The same requirements listed above apply in this case, however you may not have met the College Coursework requirements in areas such as Social Sciences, Science, and Mathematics during your teacher preparation programs. These specific credit hour requirements were implemented in 2004. When you apply for your SWD certificate, the State Education Department will notify you of any deficiencies in these other areas.

**Q: Will obtaining an additional certificate in Students with Disabilities impact my job?**

A: While obtaining additional teacher certificates may benefit you in terms of finding employment, you should always contact the leadership in your local to see if having an additional certificate might impact your teaching assignment, tenure or seniority.

**Q: I have already completed special education coursework in my teacher preparation program; will these credits count toward this certificate?**

A: This is a determination that only the State Education Department can make. If you do not need the certificate immediately, you can apply to the State Education Department for the Students with Disabilities certificate and wait for their written response. This response will include the areas where they have determined you still need course work and the areas where you received credit based on previous course work.

**Q: Once I have the course work completed, how do I obtain my certificate in Students with Disabilities?**

A: You access the TEACH system at <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/TEACH> to apply for the certificate by Individual Transcript Evaluation and you forward your supporting documents to the Office of Teaching Initiatives, NYS Education Department, 89 Washington Avenue – 5NEB, Albany, NY 12234.

**Q: How do I know what specific certificate to request?**

A: You apply for the Students with disabilities certificate that matches the developmental level of your current certificate. For example, if you teach in an elementary school, you would apply for the Students with Disabilities certificate at the Childhood Level, Grades 1-6.

**Q: I have a permanent certificate in Reading; will this program work for me?**

A: The current SWD certificate is attached to a developmental level: early childhood, childhood, middle childhood, or adolescence. In this case, you would have to specify a developmental level when you apply for the SWD certificate and additional course work might apply.

**Q: What are the specific liberal arts and sciences requirements for currently certified teachers to obtain the SWD 7-12 Generalist certificate?**

A: Six credits in each of the following areas: Math, Science, ELA, Social Studies. These credits can carry undergraduate or graduate credit.