



Minnesota State University, Mankato has received a “Personnel Preparation in Special Education” grant from the U.S. Department of Education - Office of Special Education Programs. The grant title is **Project PREP: PReparing Early childhood Practitioners using evidence based practices**. Project PREP is a partnership between the Department of Special Education at Minnesota State University, Mankato *and* Mankato Public Schools, Bloomington Public Schools, and St. Paul Public Schools.

The focus of **Project PREP** is to **prepare at least fifty new fully credentialed Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) teachers, over 5 years, whose work will lead to improvements in teaching and child and student outcomes**. Minnesota Board of Teaching standards as well as research and evidence-based practices and strategies will be used to guide the continuous improvement of **Project PREP** leading to competent, effective, innovative, collaborative ECSE teachers.

For Students to be enrolled in **Project PREP** they will need to apply to the graduate program at MSU, Mankato and complete an additional application for Project PREP. The application will require demographic information and an essay about why you are seeking licensure in ECSE.

Assessment Requirements for Students Admitted to **Project PREP**

- ECSE competency test
- If already working in the field of ECSE on a variance, classroom or home visit observation
- Minnesota state licensure exams

Benefits of **Project PREP**

- Online coursework
- Individualized advising
- Evidence based practices
- Embedded mentoring
- Long term student placements
- Real time video observations

About the ECSE program at MSU, Mankato

Minnesota State University, Mankato has approval from the Minnesota Board of Teaching (BOT) to offer an Early Childhood Special Education preparation program. The ECSE courses are offered online and each have met [Quality Matters](#) standards. [Average completion](#) of the program for an initial licensure student would be three years and two years for a candidate with an existing MN special education license.



This project is supported by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) grant #H325K160048. Opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the position of the U.S. Department of Education.



Tuition Stipend

Tuition stipends are available for qualified students meeting project requirements and enrolled in **Project PREP**. Individuals pursuing initial (first time) and add-on ESCE licensure are welcome in **Project PREP**. For every one year of full-time funding, individuals must teach for 2 years in Early Intervention/Special Education.

Applying for the Program

Admission [requirements](#)-

- 3.0 Overall GPA (Provisional acceptance may be granted with a 2.8 GPA)
- Bachelor's degree from an accredited university or college
- Completed [graduate studies application](#)
- Official college transcripts
- Project PREP- [Application](#)
- To apply go to - <http://grad.mnsu.edu/applying/>

Questions about **Project PREP**

Please direct questions regarding **Project PREP** to the project director, Dr. Aaron Deris. Dr. Deris can be reached via email at aaron.deris@mnsu.edu.



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