

**S.C. Commission on Higher Education**  
**Notification of Change to an Academic Program or Organizational Unit**  
(One Program per Form)

Name of Institution: Coastal Carolina University

Current Name of Program (include degree designation and all concentrations, options, and tracks):  
Special Education Multi-categorical (PreK-12) Major

Proposed Name of Program (include degree designation and all concentrations, options, and tracks):

Briefly state the nature of the proposed change: Moving coursework to online environment

Program Designation:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Master's Degree   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate's Degree                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Specialist  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bachelor's Degree: 4 Year | <input type="checkbox"/> Doctoral Degree: Research/Scholarship (e.g., Ph.D. and DMA)                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor's Degree: 5 Year            | <input type="checkbox"/> Doctoral Degree: Professional Practice (e.g., Ed.D., D.N.P., J.D., PharmD., and M.D.) |

Does the program currently qualify for supplemental Palmetto Fellows and LIFE Scholarship awards?

- Yes  
 No

Proposed Date of Implementation: August 15, 2023

CIP Code (confirmed by CHE): 13.1001

Site Code(s) (assigned by CHE):

Delivery Mode:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traditional/face-to-face<br>*select if less than 25% online | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Distance Education                  |
|  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 100% online                         |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Blended/hybrid (50% or more online)            |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Blended/hybrid (25-49% online)                 |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other distance education (explain if selected) |

Submission Date: [April 15, 2022](#)

State the nature of change and provide a summary of the rationale for and objectives of the program. Include the number of credit hours the change entails.

**In a partnership with SC CREATE and Horry-Georgetown Technical College, the special education program in the Spadoni College of Education and Social Sciences is offering a BA degree to instructional aides, paraprofessionals in the state of South Carolina. We would like to offer program coursework via 100% online delivery. Like many states across the nation, South Carolina is facing a shortage of highly qualified educators. According to CERRA, there were 5987 departures in 2020. As of February 2021, there were 677 additional departures. There were over 515 vacant positions across the state. There are fewer qualified applicants for each position than in previous years. Most of these vacant positions are at the secondary level. Many local schools are full of capable support personnel who are dedicated to their schools and communities. Each semester, we receive numerous calls from support personnel who desire to continue their education but are unable to leave their current position and lose their salaries and benefits. They desire affordable, convenient opportunities to pursue degrees in education. The purpose of our initiative is to collaborate with local school districts to offer a “grow your own” model. Initiatives such as these are successful in recruiting and retaining educators for their districts. This project will also supply local districts with personnel who are committed to their community and the schools in which they serve. This change will impact the required 60 credits in the special education program coursework. They will take this coursework online without interruption to their full-time work schedules in the schools.**

List the courses required for new concentrations, options, or tracks (prefix, number, title, and credit hours). **There is no new coursework, concentration, or tracks being requested. This is only a request to move the content online for our special project involving instructional aides.**

Provide information about major, general education, and elective course requirements, and the number of credit hours required for graduation, if changing. **There are no changes being made to the major. The number of credit hours required for graduation remains unchanged.**

If the program is adding or moving to blended or online delivery: provide a brief description of resources available to offer the program online (IT support, network capacity, and instructional support/availability for students, faculty qualifications to teach online, etc.) and the support provided to faculty to deliver and students to complete the program online; and state whether program will be covered by the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement or discuss plans to receive approval from other states as required.

**Coastal Carolina provide exceptional IT support for our current online programs. Currently, the special education master's program and additional licensure coursework is offered in an online format. Students are able to successfully access our learning platform (Moodle), use library resources, and maintain communication with all course professors via email and Zoom. They have IT support offered by the university consistently. We do not anticipate any changes being required to move the course content online for this BA in special education.**