Program Description

Students enrolled in the S.E.I.M. Graduate Program will acquire the necessary information and skills to work in early intervention programs for families of infants and young children with sensory loss. Students will earn a Master’s from the Department of Communicative Disorders/Deaf Education at Utah State University. The program will typically take 3 semesters to complete.

Each student will select an early intervention focus area:
- Deaf and hard of hearing
- Blind and visually impaired
- Deafblind

The course work and practicum will prepare the student to understand the myriad of issues associated with families and early intervention in natural environments to meet state of Utah credentialing and endorsement requirements.

Sensory losses have powerful effects on the lives of young children and their families. Project S.E.I.M. will prepare early interventionists to meet the needs of children with sensory loss and their families through training that is evidence-based, consistent with DEC Recommended practices, and that includes sensory-specific content essential for the successful learning and growth of these children. Students will learn early intervention practices that are family-centered, developmentally and individually appropriate, and that include interdisciplinary collaboration and assessment.

The project operates out of the Department of Communicative Disorders/Deaf Education at USU which houses the nationally and internationally known SKI-HI Institute. The SKI-HI Institute is a preeminent leader in the development of resources, training, and services for families of infants and young children with sensory loss. Instructors for Project S.E.I.M. are from the SKI-HI Institute.

Financial Support

Student stipends are available that cover tuition and other expenses. All students accepted into the S.E.I.M. Program are eligible for financial support.

Further Information

Contact:
- Sue Watkins, EdD (Deaf/Hard of Hearing), sue.watkins@usu.edu
- Elizabeth Dennison, MS (Blind/Vision Impaired), elizabeth.dennison@usu.edu
- Linda Alsop, MS (Deafblind), linda.alsop@usu.edu

Co-Directors of Project S.E.I.M. are:
- Dr. James Blair: james.blair@usu.edu
- Dr. Sue Watkins: See above.
Utah State University is located in Logan, 85 miles north of Salt Lake City. Residents are proud of the wide, tree-lined streets, clean air, and low crime rate. Downtown Logan is only a short walk or bike ride from the University and offers modern shops, restaurants, and entertainment.

Academics are emphasized at Utah State University. Because of USU's outstanding programs and its stature as a major research university, a degree earned at USU is internationally recognized. Graduates from the S.E.I.M. Program will be sought by employers for positions throughout the United States.

Applicants who have a bachelor's degree in special education, early childhood education, elementary education, family and human development, education of the deaf, education of the blind/visually impaired, or a related field are encouraged to apply for this program.

Interested applicants must complete an application to the graduate school, obtain three letters of recommendation indicating ability to complete graduate work and score at or better than the 40th percentile on the Miller Analogy Test.

Graduate Program and Course Sequence

The program is designed to provide a unique experience for the individual desiring to work with infants and young children with sensory loss. The Masters Degree program (M.Ed.) can be completed in two semesters plus a summer session if undergraduate prerequisites are completed. Individuals selecting this course of study will have skills necessary to work in early intervention agencies and other programs which serve very young children with sensory loss.

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