

Special Education Program Writing Activity

Instructions: Write an essay on the topic described below. Your paper must be 3 to 4 double-spaced pages in length. Your writing will be evaluated on both content and writing skill.

Topic and guidelines:

- Describe your professional goals;
- your commitment to Special Education;
- your philosophy of education; and
- how our Special Education program fits your goals.

In addressing this topic, use your personal experience, professional experience, and your knowledge of the profession to support your position. Use professional voice in your writing, and be as clear and specific as possible.

SCORING CRITERIA FOR WRITING ACTIVITY

Your writing will be scored by the faculty using the following criteria:

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| • The response is organized logically with an introduction, body, and conclusion. | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| • The writer's position is well supported with examples from experience and/or knowledge of the profession. | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| • The nature of the content reflects ideas and thinking processes characteristic of a potential special education teacher. | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| • The writer uses professional voice. | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| • The writing is free of spelling, punctuation, and grammar errors. | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

Scoring Rubric

- 4 – distinguished; exceeds expectations
- 3 – proficient; criterion fully met
- 2 – basic; criterion partially met
- 1 – unacceptable; criterion not met