

# Myths and Facts

## Related to the Dual Preparation Program

Many students think . . .	The reality is . . .
1. If I complete the Dual Prep program, I will have to take a special education teaching position.	1. Graduates of the Dual Prep program are <b>hired into general and special education positions</b> . In fact, because of their diverse training, they are highly recruited by principals for both types of positions.
2. If I complete the Dual Prep program, I will automatically be licensed in special education.	2. Graduates will be eligible for special education licensure, but <b>must choose to apply</b> to the Hawaii Teachers Standards Board.
3. If I take a special education position in Hawaii, then I will be “stuck” teaching special education for the rest of my career.	3. In the past, the Hawaii Department of Education did not allow special education teachers to transfer to general education classes. That policy no longer exists. <b>Teachers may transfer</b> from special education to general education positions.
4. If I enroll in the Dual Prep program, I will have to complete twice as many hours in field experience courses.	4. The amount of time required in field experiences is <b>the same</b> in the Elementary Education and Dual Prep programs. In the Dual Prep program, field experiences are split between general and special education settings.
5. It will take an extra year to complete all the courses in the Dual Prep program.	5. Both the Elementary Education and Dual Prep programs <b>require two years to complete</b> . Summer coursework is required between the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> year.
6. If I teach general education, I won't have to deal with students with behavior or learning problems.	6. The Hawaii Superintendent's 2006 Report indicates that 51% of students in Hawaii's schools have special needs, such as disabilities, English as a second language, and economic disadvantage. The majority of these students spend most or all of their school day in general education.
7. Students in special education can't learn no matter what the teacher does.	7. All students can learn. Students with disabilities <b>need the best teachers</b> using the most <b>effective teaching strategies</b> to meet their potential. Small gains from struggling students can be the most rewarding.
8. I will have to take a teaching position in an outlying, rural area.	8. More elementary education positions are available in outlying areas. Special education positions are available in all districts on all islands.

## Be prepared to make a difference!

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# Frequently Asked Questions

## About the Dual Preparation Program

**1. How many more courses will I have to take in the Dual Prep program than in the Elementary Education program?**

You won't take more total courses. The Dual Prep program requires some different courses than the Elementary Education program. Two of these emphasis courses may be taken prior to admission to the dual prep program. The total program equals 124 credit hours (including your Manoa core) which is exactly enough to qualify for graduation.

**2. Will it take me longer to complete the Dual Prep program?**

No, both the Elementary Education and Dual Preparation programs require 2 years to complete. Summer coursework is required between year 1 and year 2.

**3. Will I spend more time in the field?**

No, field experiences are variable credit courses. Although you register for 2 field experiences (ITE 317/SPED 400) you actually spend the same amount of time in the field (2 days a week) as students in the Elementary Education program.

**4. How many days will I be required to attend courses at UH?**

Coursework requires 2 days at UH Manoa per week during the academic year. You will have one day a week free just like students in the Elementary Education program.

**5. Won't it cost me more for the Dual Prep program?**

Fulltime students only pay for the first 12 credit hours. Credit hours beyond that are free. Dual Prep students are eligible to receive a tuition stipend for 33 credit hours, if they agree to spend 3 years teaching special education in the Hawaii Department of Education following program completion. **This stipend decreases the cost of your teacher licensure program from approximately \$12,000 to less than \$5,000.**

**6. Will I have to take a special education position if I complete this program?**

No, graduates of the Dual Preparation program are hired into general and special education positions. In fact, because of their diverse training, they are highly recruited by principals for both types of positions.

**7. If I complete the Dual Preparation program will I automatically be licensed in special education?**

Graduates will be eligible for licensure in both elementary and special education. Students decide which license(s) to apply for: Elementary, Special Education, or both.

**8. What is the advantage of completing the Dual Prep program?**

You will be better prepared to teach all students. The Dual Prep program includes coursework in behavior management, differentiated instruction, and collaboration.