

## *Requirements for Admissions*

### **All GPSE applicants are required to:**

- Hold Initial Certification (or the equivalent) from NYSED in general or special education, in the age and grade range of the program applied to (i.e., Early Childhood Special Education: birth to grade 2; Childhood Special Education: grades 1 to 6; Adolescent Special Education: grades 7 to age 21).
- Have an undergraduate Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 or better.
- Write a well-written essay explaining why the applicant chose to major in special education.
- Provide three letters of recommendation that demonstrate the applicant's abilities, qualities, and promise as a special educator.
- Indicate the nature and types of the applicant's work experience.

Occasionally, GPSE may accept an applicant on probation if the applicant's GPA is lower than 3.0, but the applicant is strong in other relevant areas. Such candidates are mentored and monitored carefully during their first academic year (their first 12-special education credits). If they attain a 3.0 GPA during their first 12-credits, they become fully matriculated. If, after completing 12-graduate credits they earn less than a 3.0 GPA, they are dropped from the program, as per college policy. Initial certification in special education at the undergraduate level in NY State is based on the completion of an undergraduate preparation program in elementary general education with additional coursework in special education.

### Graduate Application

### Non-Matriculated Graduate Application