

University of Utah
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
Project ISAACC Information

Project ISAACC is a Master's level preservice personnel preparation project designed to provide **Interdisciplinary Scholarship for Advancing Adapted Physical Education and Communication Science Disorders Collaboration. *Project ISAACC* scholars will be trained to provide collaborative evidence-based interventions in adapted physical education and speech and language services for children with disabilities with high-intensity needs ages 3 to 22.**

The purpose of this project is to provide an interdisciplinary collaborative program that delivers core content through shared coursework, group assignments, and coordinated field experiences to selected scholars in the adapted physical education (APE) and speech-language pathology (SLP) Master's programs.

The primary objectives of Project ISAACC are to:

1. Develop and implement intensified recruitment and retention of qualified scholars, while ensuring equal access and treatment for eligible project participants in underrepresented groups.
2. Provide collaborative and shared coursework, clinical learning opportunities, field experiences, and supervised practica.
3. Improve ongoing high-quality mentoring and induction opportunities through collaboration.
4. Improve the APE and SLP Master's programs by integrating into coursework and practica/clinical experiences the following evidence-based competencies needed to:
 - (a) provide effective APE and SLP services to children with high-intensity needs from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds;
 - (b) incorporate universal design for learning principles and differentiated instruction;
 - (c) assess then provide intensive individualized instruction and interventions by collecting and analyzing student achievement data in order to promote high expectations of student progress toward outcomes;
 - (d) promote inclusion of children with disabilities in the least restrictive environment while fostering high expectations and participation in learning and social activities, academic achievement, friendships with peers, and sense of belonging;
 - (e) collaborate with general education, special education, and related services providers using an interdisciplinary team-based approach;

(f) collaborate with parents, caregivers, families, and diverse stakeholders using an interdisciplinary team-based approach designed to lead to improved learning and developmental outcomes for the successful transition to college and career for children with disabilities;

(g) engage in meaningful and effective collaboration of appropriate partners in high-poverty schools;

(h) implement strategies to address bullying of children with disabilities with high-intensity needs;

5. Use technology to promote scholar learning and professional practice, enhance the efficiency of the project, collaborate with partners, facilitate ongoing mentoring and support for scholars, and ensure that scholars understand how to use educational and assistive technology to support the learning of children with disabilities.

Project ISAACC scholars will graduate from this program and be “highly qualified” in accordance with IDEA and 34 CFR 300.18 in the State of Utah. These graduates will earn national certification in adapted physical education or speech and language pathology and will greatly increase the supply of highly qualified specialists for the State of Utah and the nation.
