

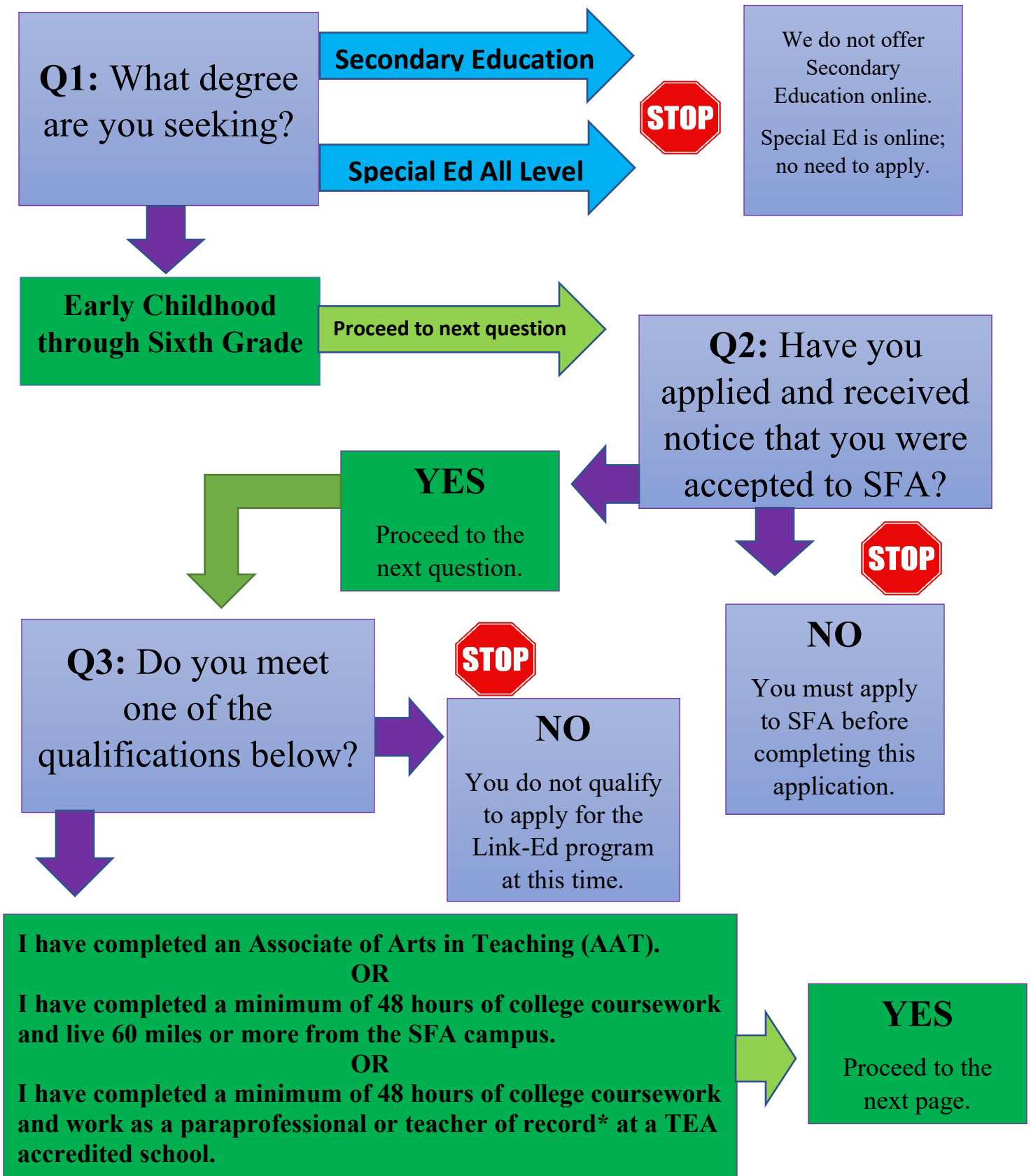
Education Studies

Lumberjack Link-Ed Program

Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies

AY 2025-2026

PLEASE ANSWER THE THREE QUESTIONS ON THE FLOW CHART TO
DETERMINE IF YOU QUALIFY TO APPLY.



GPA Requirements/Teacher of Record

GPA REQUIREMENTS

You may have answered yes to the three questions on the flow chart, but there are two more things to consider before applying.

The GPA for enrollment to SFA is not the same requirement for enrollment to the SFA Educator Preparation Program (EPP).

Acceptance to the Lumberjack Link-ED Program is not guaranteed even if accepted to SFA. If accepted to SFA but not the Link-ED Program, students may take face-to-face courses and other allowable online classes outside of educator preparation courses until the GPA meets requirements for enrollment into the EPP and/or Link-ED program.

To enroll in the SFA Educator Preparation Program (EPP) a minimum 2.75 GPA for either the last 60 hours or overall GPA is required. Therefore, to enter the Link-ED program that minimum 2.75 GPA requirement is also required to participate in the online program.

The GPA for the Link-ED program is calculated using the last 60 hours or overall GPA if there are less than 60 college hours completed. ALL courses on your transcript are used to calculate your GPA. If you have taken the same course more than once, both attempts are calculated into your GPA calculation.

If you have completed an AAT, your GPA at the time of graduation is used for your entry into the Link-ED program. However, a completed transcript of those completed hours and final GPA must be provided when you apply to the Link-Ed program.

If you know your GPA will not meet the minimum 2.75 GPA requirement for the Link-ED program, please do not apply at this time. You may work with your current advisor to determine

courses you can take to raise your GPA and reapply once you have met that minimum GPA requirement.

TEACHER OF RECORD

If you are currently listed as a Teacher of Record on a campus and want to apply for the Link-Ed Program, please be aware of two things.

- 1) You must be a Teacher of Record in a grade level and content area appropriate for the EC-6 degree (Grades PreK-6).**
- 2) When you enter the clinical teaching semester, the final semester of your coursework, you must resign from your position as the Teacher of Record because you may not be both the clinical teacher and the Teacher of Record at the same time. *Many school districts allow you to participate in a paid semester long or yearling residency clinical teaching experience, where you will still be compensated while completing this requirement, but you will not be identified as the Teacher of Record.**

If you know that you cannot commit to both items above, please do not apply at this time.

READY TO APPLY?



If you answered yes to the three questions on the flow chart, but you know your GPA will not meet the minimum requirement, do not complete the application. You may work with your current advisor to determine courses you can take to raise your GPA and reapply once you have met that minimum GPA requirement.

If you answered yes to the three questions on the flow chart, but you are a Teacher of Record and cannot commit to the two items noted, please do not apply at this time.

READY TO APPLY?



If you answered yes to the three questions on the flow chart and you know your GPA will meet the minimum requirement, please read through the rest of the information in this packet, then complete the application requirements as noted in the directions.

If you answered yes to the three questions on the flow chart and can commit to the two items if you are currently a Teacher of Record, please read through the rest of the information in this packet, then complete the application requirements as noted in the directions.

Please NOTE:

- 1) Applications that do not meet the minimum requirements as noted on the flow chart and GPA requirements will not be considered for enrollment in the Link-Ed program. A new application is required if you choose to reapply at a later date.**

You will receive an email if your application is denied due to not meeting the minimum requirements.

- 2) Incomplete applications will not be accepted. There are three pages to the application and all fields of each page must be completed. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all fields of all three pages are completed before submitting the application.**

An email noting an incomplete application may not be sent since it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure completion before submitting.

OVERVIEW OF THE LUMBERJACK LINK-ED PROGRAM

The Department of Education Studies offers a unique distance education pathway for qualifying, non-traditional students who wish to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies without attending courses on the SFA main campus in two different degree pathways.

- Early Childhood through Sixth Grade (EC-6)
- Special Education (All level) – Does not require application to be admitted.

For those interested in a degree in SPED, please contact SPED.UG@sfasu.edu for information about admission requirements.

LINK-ED PROGRAM ADMISSION INFORMATION

The following steps must be completed for your application before your application is considered for review.

1. Secure a partnership with a TEA approved school. You must provide the campus administrator, Human Resource Director, or Superintendent with the Partnership letter and paperwork to complete.
2. Complete the three-page application with all required fields completed.
3. Attach any additional documentation as noted in the application.
4. Send your completed application which includes the partnership agreement paperwork to Dr. Susan Reily at reilys@sfasu.edu.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure the application is completed. Incomplete applications are not accepted are saved as partial submissions.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION AND ACCEPTANCE

Applications for the Lumberjack Link-ED program are accepted year-round. However, to ensure acceptance of a specific entry time: Fall, Spring, or Summer, applicants must submit a completed application no later than the date noted on the chart below to allow ample time for university and program paperwork to be processed.

Semester Seeking Enrollment	Deadline to Ensure Enrollment
Fall 25	August 1, 2025
Spring 26	December 5, 2025
Summer 26	May 1, 2026
Fall 26	August 1, 2026

Paperwork received after the deadlines, but before the beginning of the new semester, may be reviewed before the semester begins, but does not guarantee approval in time for enrollment for the current semester.

Paperwork received after the first day of classes will be considered for the next semester's enrollment.

Information on the application is reviewed and confirmed by the program coordinator which involves contacting the district representative. Depending on the response time of the district representative, the approval process may take a day to a month to complete. If you have not received an acceptance or denial email within two weeks of applying, first review your application to ensure it was completed for review. If you did submit a completed application, and still have not received a confirmation or denial email, you are encouraged to reach out to the district representative to check for a partnership confirmation email from the program coordinator.

COURSE LOAD REQUIREMENTS

Undergraduate courses are completed in 16 weeks during the fall and spring semesters. Summer courses are completed during Summer 1 or Summer 2, 5-week terms. The education courses offered during the summer are limited; therefore, it is recommended that the candidate take any courses not related to education during summer sessions.

Once assigned an advisor, they will guide you on course availability and the pacing of completing all credit hours for graduation. A full-time course load at the undergraduate level is 12 hours (4 courses) which is also required for those seeking financial aid (see questions often asked section for more information about financial aid).

FIELD-BASED EXPERIENCES

Because you are preparing for a career in education, structured, field-based experiences occur throughout the education courses. Experiences include observation, modeling, and demonstration of effective practices to improve student learning with diverse types of students, grade levels, and campuses. It is the candidate's responsibility to secure a field experience location for observations and teaching experiences (see partnership letter and agreement in application).

Documentation confirming placement in a TEA approved school must be provided as part of the application process and must be confirmed again within the first two weeks of any course requiring field-based experience. SFA will not provide a placement site for you.

SECURE A PARTNERSHIP

On the first two pages of the application, you will find the following documents.

- 1) Letter to potential partnership campus;**
- 2) Partnership Agreement documentation.**

Even though you are seeking the opportunity to complete your coursework online, you are required to have a partnership campus where you can complete course and field requirements each semester. The campus will most likely be in the city where you are residing or close to where you reside.

Once you have selected a TEA accredited campus that you would like to partner with to complete your course and field requirements, provide the district and campus leadership with both the letter and partnership paperwork. It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide the documentation to the principal, HR director, and/or Superintendent to complete the required paperwork.

As an EC-6 major, you must have a partnership with a district that serves students in grades K-5, and preferably grades PK-6. If you are seeking a partnership with a district that may separate grade level campuses (for example, a PK-2 campus and a separate 3-5 campus), you should provide a partnership agreement for both campuses.

PLEASE NOTE: If accepted to the Link-ED program, applicants must resubmit partnership agreements if the partnership campus changes from what was approved in the initial application. Failure to provide the updated information may be cause for removal of the Link-Ed program.

COMPLETE APPLICATION

After receiving the completed partnership agreement, ensure that all required fields are completed.

Next, complete the two-page application that follows the partnership agreement.

All paperwork must be submitted as an attachment in the format of ONE PDF file and sent to Dr. Susan Reily at reilys@sfasu.edu.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to submit the paperwork as required. As a potential online student, you must know how to submit a PDF file. The following ARE NOT accepted and will be considered as an incomplete application.

- **Photos and screenshots of the paperwork are not accepted.**
- **Links to access the completed paperwork will not be opened.**
- **Paperwork submitted as separate attachments are not accepted.**

The applicant will receive an email when the application is either accepted or denied. The timeframe to receive the acceptance or denial email will depend on the response time for the confirmation email sent to the district representative. If you have not received either the acceptance or denial email within two weeks of applying, you should reach out to the district representative to check their email for the partnership confirmation email from Dr. Susan Reily.

The applicant may not receive notification if the application is incomplete or sent incorrectly (photos, screenshots, links, or separate attachments are not accepted). If an email is not received the applicant should review the paperwork to determine what is missing or incorrect.

QUESTIONS OFTEN ASKED

Q1: What is the tuition cost for the program?

A: The cost of attendance at SFA includes both direct costs and additional costs. Keep in mind that the total cost also depends on factors such as how many credit hours the applicant is taking, textbooks, and materials required for each class. If you have questions about tuition and fee plans, please contact the Student Business Office at sbs@sfasu.edu or 936-468-6960.

<https://www.sfasu.edu/sbs/tuition-fees/plans-rates>

Q2: How do I apply for financial aid?

A: If you have questions about financial aid or other types of aid available, please contact the Financial Aid Office at finaid@sfasu.edu or 936-468-2403.

Q3: I know I don't meet the eligibility requirements, but it would be helpful in my current situation to take all online classes for a semester then go back to face-to-face classes?

A: If you do not meet one of the qualifications requirements to enter the Link-ED program, you are not eligible to take all online courses for only a semester.

Q4: Do I have to complete the Partnership Agreement in the application if I am not a paraprofessional or Teacher of Record?

A: The partnership agreement is required of all Link-ED participants whether you are employed as a paraprofessional/TOR or just seeking a school to complete your course requirements.

Q5: I am a paraprofessional at a campus for grade levels not associated with my selected degree. Can I complete my course requirements at that campus?

A: All field requirements must be completed on a campus appropriate for your degree area. You must work with your current position to take time to travel to the campus working with grade levels appropriate to your degree and complete a partnership agreement with that campus.

Q6: I am trying to secure a placement at a TEA approved school. Can I be accepted to the program and send that information later?

A: The partnership agreement is part of the application process. The entire application must be completed to be considered for the program.

If you have additional questions, please send to reilys@sfasu.edu.

APPLICATION

READY TO APPLY?



Did you read everything on the previous pages? If not, you are missing important information on how to submit your application and should go back and read through everything.



If you read everything on the previous pages, proceed to the next page where you will find the letter you must provide to your potential district partnership when you provide the partnership agreement form for them to complete.



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Education Studies

P.O. Box 13017, SFA Station • Nacogdoches, Texas 75962

Phone (936) 468-2904 • Fax (936) 468-1701

For electronic use only

Dear District/Campus Administrator:

The James I. Perkins College of Education at SFA offers an online program pathway (Lumberjack Link-ED) for our Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies with a concentration in EC-6. An applicant is applying for our Lumberjack Link-ED Online BSIS program and is requesting the opportunity to complete their course and field requirements within your district. We offer this opportunity to candidates who meet at least one of the following: 1) employed by a TEA accredited school district as a paraprofessional, 2) employed by a TEA accredited school district as a Teacher of Record, 3) live 60 or more miles from an SFA campus, or 4) completed an AAT.

The construction of knowledge through interactions and experiences within authentic school settings is one of the primary foci of teacher education at SFA. We feel that through the experience gained working in a grade-level, content area classroom, the teacher candidate/paraprofessional is in a position to apply their learning in the classroom to the coursework in our program in a way that will support the development of the knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary for a successful classroom teacher.

We are requesting that you allow the teacher candidate to gain field experience hours while enrolled in the Lumberjack Link-ED online program and complete course requirements each semester leading up to their clinical teaching semester. This collaboration is deeply appreciated, and it is our hope that this partnership proves beneficial for your district, students within the classrooms, as well as the teacher candidate.

Each semester the focus of field experience will differ as noted on the chart below. Applicants may complete their clinical teaching on your campus; however, our office will confirm their placement for that final semester which may or may not be on your campus.

SEMESTER	REQUIREMENTS
Pre-EPP 1 Semester	Required Hours: 6 hours/semester of observations Setting preference: PK-3 classrooms
Pre-EPP 2 Semester	Required Hours: 6 hours/semester of observations Setting preference: PK-3 classrooms
Field 1 Semester *Candidates are required to plan and implement instruction which will require documenting completion through pictures, videos, and student data collection.	Required Hours: 6 hours/weekly Setting preference: Math/Science content areas
Field 2 Semester *Candidates are required to plan and implement instruction which will require documenting completion through pictures, videos, and student data collection.	Required Hours: 6 hours/weekly Setting Preference: ELAR/Social Studies content areas
Clinical Teaching Semester *Our office will confirm the placement for candidates the semester prior to clinical teaching.	Required Hours/Days: 75 days Setting Preference: an EC-6 classroom.

The teacher candidate will be responsible for complying with district policies and procedures regarding the collection of data and artifacts while in the program. Our Lumberjack Link-ED courses and the faculty who work with our online teacher candidates are mindful of the responsibilities of paraprofessionals/Teachers of Record working in schools and the program is designed to complement and extend the experiences gained in the classroom while the candidate is fulfilling the duties of their work assignment. However, paraprofessionals/Teachers of Record must complete field requirements in classrooms that are appropriate for their degree area and may need time during their workday to travel to those settings.

Candidates will be required to video their teaching to receive feedback on their instruction. If taking videos of instruction is not allowed on your campus, please inform the applicant and do not complete the partnership agreement form they have provided for you. It will be the responsibility of the applicant to find another campus where they are allowed to video their instruction.

Again, our programs sincerely appreciate your cooperation. Please contact us with any questions or concerns you have or include them when completing the Partnership Agreement form provided by the candidate.

After the applicant has submitted the completed application, you will receive a confirmation email from me with additional questions to confirm the information provided for the partnership.

Sincerely,

Dr. Susan Reily

Assistant Chair for EC6 and MLGE Undergraduate and Curriculum and Instruction Graduate Programs
Stephen F. Austin State University
Department of Education Studies
reilys@sfasu.edu
936-469-2368

Campus Partnership Agreement for Lumberjack Link-ED Teacher Candidates

This portion completed by applicant.

Applicant Name:

Select the semester for entry:

Fall 25

☐

Spring 26

☐

Summer 26

☐

I confirm that while enrolled in the SFA Lumberjack Link-ED program I am: (select at least one option below)

A paraprofessional in a TEA approved school for the degree area I am seeking with ISD.

A Teacher of Record in a TEA approved school for the degree area I am seeking with ISD.

Seeking ongoing placement opportunities to complete both course and field requirements each semester with ISD located 60 miles or more from the SFA campus.

This portion completed by district/campus representative.

Please expect an email from the program coordinator to confirm the information on this form.

Campus Name:

Grade Levels Taught on Campus:

Name of Representative (please print):

Position/Title of Representative:

School Email of Representative (please print):

The district/campus understands and agrees to the following partnership requirements.

- The applicant must be assigned to duties in a classroom reflective of the grade level and content areas for which they are seeking certification. (An overview of field hours noted in the letter provided to the representative. It is the responsibility of the applicant to inform the campus of specific requirements at the beginning of each semester.)
- Throughout the program of study, the applicant will be responsible for conducting informal pre and post assessments, planning lessons and instructional activities, observing an established classroom environment, and engaging with K-12 students in an authentic setting.
- At times the applicant will need to document their work through pictures, video, and collection of data. The applicant will be responsible for complying with district policies and procedures regarding the collection of data and artifacts while in the program. NOTE: if video is not allowed, please do not complete the partnership agreement.

Signature of Representative

Date

Education Studies Office Use Only:

GPA: AAT/ Hours Completed:
Date Application Received and Representative Emailed:
Date Application Approved/Denied:

Applicant Acknowledgement of Program Participation

I, am seeking admission to the Lumberjack
Link-ED Program concentrating in EC-6.

SFA Student ID Number:

Permanent Address:

Select the semester for entry: Fall 25 ☐ Spring 26 ☐ Summer 26 ☐

*To ensure enrollment into the selected semester above, candidates must provide the completed application no later than the date noted in the provided information.

Check the option(s) below that apply to your application.

☐

I am a paraprofessional at a TEA accredited school in an area appropriate for my degree and I have completed a minimum of 48 hours of coursework.

☐

I am a Teacher of Record at a TEA accredited school in an area appropriate for my degree and I have completed a minimum of 48 hours of coursework.

☐

My permanent address is 60 miles or more away from the SFA campus and I have completed a minimum of 48 hours of coursework.
(Permanent address must be accurate in the SFA System.)

☐

I have completed my AAT and have attached confirmation of that completed degree with my application.

☐

I have completed my AAT and I have attached confirmation of that the hours I have completed for the degree with my application.

I have read and confirm the following requirements to participate. (Initial next to each statement.)

☐ I understand that I must secure a placement to complete face-to-face field hours to work in classrooms associated with the degree I am pursuing.

☐ I understand that I must confirm my campus placement each semester for courses requiring field work, and if any changes occur, I must notify the program coordinator for my degree. (Failure to notify may result in removal from the online program.)

☐ I understand that if working full-time on a campus, I must work with my campus to ensure my field hour requirements are completed in the assigned grade levels for that field requirement.

☐ I understand that by participating in online course requirements, some courses have mandatory synchronous meetings generally held in the evenings.

☐ I understand that I am required to follow course timelines and deadlines established for each different course completed. (Lumberjack Link-ED participation allows candidates to complete coursework around other obligations; however, each semester, candidates must meet course required deadlines.)

☐ I understand that I should communicate regularly with course instructors knowing that course instructors have scheduled times during the week to meet for support.

☐ I understand that all required documentation for the Link-ED application must be completed correctly and failure to do so will result in denial and resubmission of the application.

☐ I acknowledge that I have been accepted to SFA and received notification of my acceptance before submitting this application. (ID number provided)

☐ I understand that the final 60 hours or overall GPA is calculated to determine if I have met the minimum 2.75 GPA.

☐ I understand that I will be contacted by my advisor if accepted into the online program or receive an email from the program coordinator if not accepted.

☐ I confirm that I have read through the entire Link-Ed packet before submitting this application.

Signature of Applicant

Date

APPLICATION MUST BE SCANNED AS ONE FILE AND SAVED AS A PDF TO BE ACCEPTED. IMAGES, SCREENSHOTS, OR LINKS AS ONE FILE OR SEPARATE FILES NOT ACCEPTED.