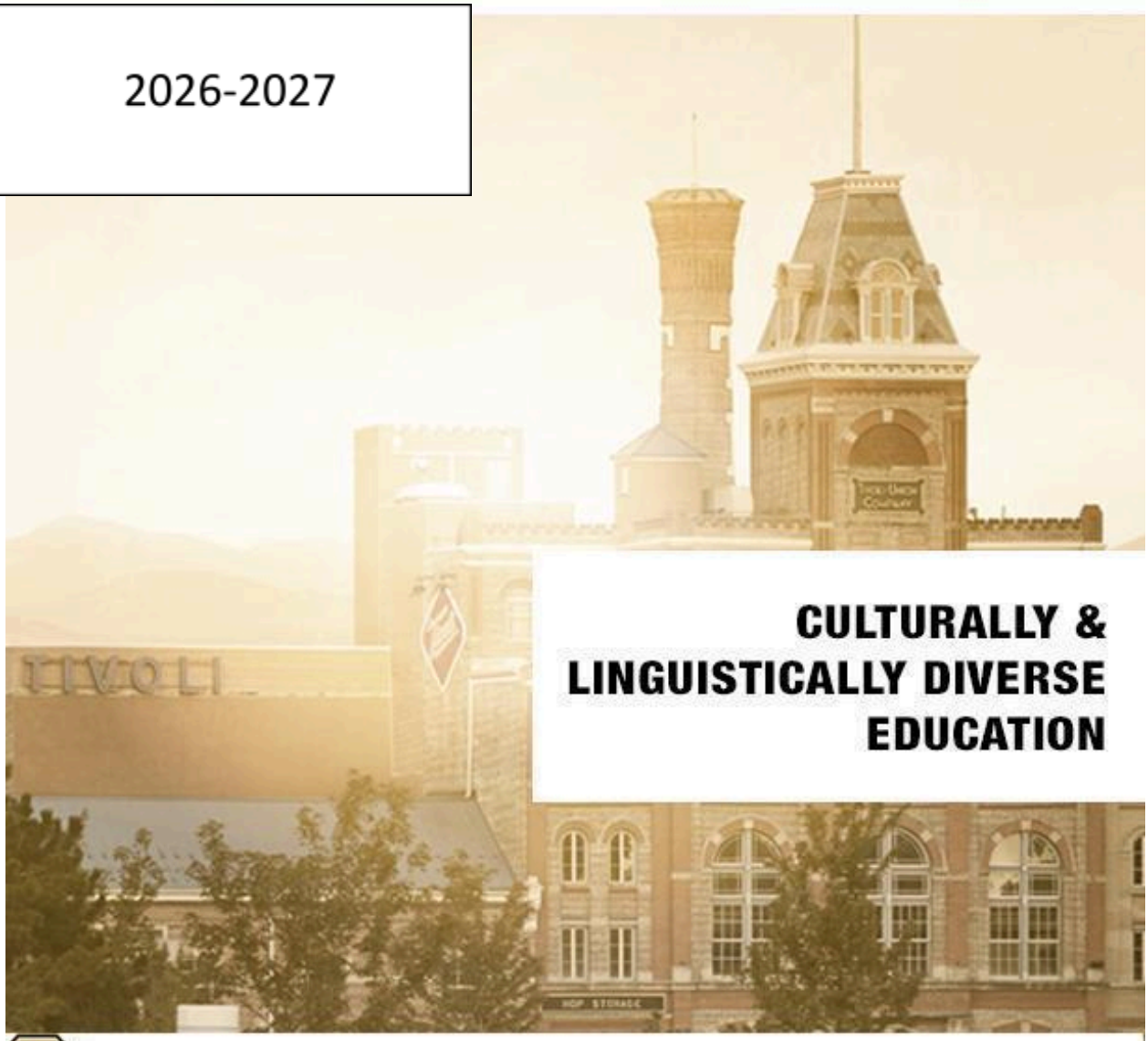
STUDENT HANDBOOK

2026-2027



CULTURALLY & LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE EDUCATION

School of Education & Human Development
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER

CU IN THE CITY

Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Education (CLDE) Student Handbook

This handbook applies to students in the following programs:

- Master of Arts in Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Education
- Master of Arts in Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Education with CLD Education Endorsement
- Master of Arts in Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Education with CLD Bilingual Education Endorsement
- Master of Arts in Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Education with CLD Education Endorsement and CLD Bilingual Education Endorsement
- Culturally & Linguistically Diverse (CLD) Education Endorsement
- Endorsement Upgrade from CLD Education Endorsement to CLD Bilingual Education Endorsement

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1. Program Mission and Vision

Your successful experience in the Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Education program is important to us. This handbook is a tool to support you in your academic progress according to SEHD and University of Colorado Denver policies and procedures. In addition to this handbook, students should refer to the School of Education and Human Development *Student Policy Handbook,* available on the SEHD Graduate Student Resources page. ***The Student Policy handbook includes information on registration, Financial Aid, grades, graduation, and other topics that relate to students in all SEHD programs.***

Vision/Values/Mission

Through state-wide partnerships and research collaborations, the CLDE program prepares teachers and other educational professionals to be leaders in education who advocate for and are engaged in creating equitable, quality educational opportunities for students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. The CLDE program is designed for educators passionate about championing the strengths and assets of multilingual children. This program will transform your practice and develop your expertise and leadership in culturally and linguistically responsive pedagogies. As of Fall 2024, all courses are offered online with synchronous and asynchronous courses.

We emphasize sociocultural, sociolinguistic, and social justice approaches to the study of language and learning. We are committed—through courses, practica, and performance-based assessments—to asset-based approaches that engage teachers in field-based projects focused on better understanding and working with multilingual learners. The overarching commitment and responsibility of the CLDE program is to provide teachers with critical knowledge, understandings and skills to help multilingual learners thrive.

Application of Vision/Values/Mission to Program Design

Just as we strive to create transformative educational experiences for k12 multilingual learners, we strive to provide transformative graduate experiences for new and veteran teachers.

We provide opportunities to learn and apply that learning in all core areas:

1. Foundations of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education
    a. Language development and bilingualism
    b. History, law and politics around immigration and education of bilingual students
    c. Language, culture, and identity; life and community outside of school for bilingual and multidialectal students; teaching for social justice
2. Effective literacy instruction and development for multilingual learners
3. Effective content instruction that positions multilingual learners as experts and leaders with important contributions to the classroom community

4. Strength-based assessment of multilingual learners
5. Advocacy and leadership for bilingual learners in K-12 schools

For bilingual educators, we provide specific embedded coursework to develop the knowledge and skills needed for bilingual education, as well as an opportunity to engage in graduate work in Spanish.

2. Program Format

All courses are offered online with synchronous and asynchronous courses.

3. Program Staff and Faculty

Our program staff and faculty are here to support you as you engage in this academic and professional journey.

	**Shelley Gomez** CLDE MA Program Advisor shelley.gomez@cudenver.edu Shelley is your academic advisor and the go-to person for questions about registration, graduation, and your overall MA experience.
	**Adriana Alvarez** Associate Professor adriana.alvarez@ucdenver.edu Adriana is the faculty advisor for all BAMA, CLD BE Endorsement students in the MA program. She is the faculty advisor for BESO (Bilingual Education Student Organization).
	**Chris Carson** Senior Instructor Christopher.carson@ucdenver.edu Chris is the faculty advisor for partnership and certificate MA program offerings, and the faculty advisor for ASPIRE program and partnership certificate students.
	**Sofía E. Chaparro** Associate Professor sofia.chaparro@ucdenver.edu Sofía is an advisor for MA students and doctoral students, and is the go-to person for questions about the culminating experience.

	**Ester de Jong** Professor and Associate Dean for Research and Academic Affairs ester.dejong@ucdenver.edu Ester mentors doctoral students and provides leadership and support for the CLDE program.

4. Important Policies and Information

Program Plan
Your faculty advisor will reach out to you before you get started in the program to create a study plan (see templates on program website, CLDE graduate student resources). Be sure to check in with them regularly, and especially if something comes up that requires you to make changes to your course plan.

Grade Policy for All Endorsement and MA programs:
To count toward the endorsement or MA, a minimum grade of a "B-" must be earned in all courses.

Communication
To protect your privacy and confidentiality, all communications related to your studies at UC Denver will be sent to **your UC Denver email address**. Please make sure you check this regularly.

Scholarship Opportunities and Financial Aid
In addition to the standard financial aid available to all students, CLDE MA students have additional options to ensure their education is affordable. These include:

- **Federal TEACH Grant:** Because English language acquisition and bilingual education are designated as "high-needs fields", the TEACH grant is available to those who work in schools serving low-income students. See the federal TEACH grant requirements and talk to your financial aid advisor.
- **CLDE-specific scholarships:** See links from the CLDE graduate information webpage.
- **Colorado Graduate Grant:** This state grant is available for qualifying students taking more than three credits per semester. Speak to your financial aid advisor.
- **District incentives:** Some classes are offered for free or at a reduced tuition rate in our partner school districts, and some districts offer added tuition reimbursement and/or incentives for endorsement/MA completion. Inquire with your district HR department.

Culminating Experience
Successful completion of a Culminating Experience portfolio is a requirement for graduation with the MA in CLDE. Completing this portfolio helps you synthesize your academic and professional development in the MA program. Students complete their Culminating Experience the same semester in which they apply for graduation. It is typically done as part of the capstone class: *CLDE 5035 Connecting multilingual theories to practice.* A description of the current Culminating Experience can be found here.

5. Degree, Endorsement, and Certificate Pathways

The Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education Program offers several MA degree paths, two stand-alone Endorsements options, and one certificate option. In addition, we offer special pathways for students who chose the Bachelor to Master option in their undergraduate program (BAMA) at CU Denver and for those who successfully completed the alternative licensure program, ASPIRE to TEACH, at CU Denver. You can explore the course plan templates for most of these degree paths on our program website: **CLDE graduate student resources.** Please note that recommendation for endorsement is made by the CLDE Program, but endorsement is granted by the State of Colorado (see instructions at the end of this handbook for adding the endorsement to your license).

Traditional MA Degree Options

1. **MA in CLDE**: The customizable 30 credit hour MA path provides the opportunity for you to tailor your coursework to your specific needs as an educator. For this degree pathway you take a minimum of six classes in the CLDE program area, and then choose electives to meet your professional goals. You will have the flexibility to choose courses outside the CLDE area for additional learning. This MA does NOT lead to a license or an endorsement.

2. **MA in CLDE with CLD Education Endorsement (K-12)**: The MA in CLDE with the CLD Education Endorsement allows you to add a CLD endorsement to your current teaching license. CU Denver's endorsement program is approved by the Colorado Department of Education.

3. **MA in CLDE with CLD Bilingual Education Endorsement (K-12**): The MA in CLDE with the CLD Bilingual Education Endorsement prepares you to become a bilingual educator working in a bilingual setting. Coursework and the Culminating Experience are completed bilingually in English and Spanish.

Stand-Alone Endorsement Options

4. **CLD Education Endorsement** (24 credit hours): If you are looking to add a CLD Education Endorsement to your teaching license without getting an MA, you can do so by taking the 24 credit hours required by CDE and indicated in this course plan.

5. **CLD Bilingual Education Endorsement** (24 credit hours): If you are bilingual in Spanish and English and are teaching or wish to teach in a bilingual setting, you can choose to add the CLD Bilingual Education Endorsement to your license by following this course plan. This program includes courses taught bilingually in Spanish and English.

6. **Upgrade from CLDE to CLD Bilingual Education Endorsement** (9 credit hours): If you already have a CLDE endorsement and are an advanced or fluent Spanish-English bilingual, you

can upgrade your CLDE endorsement to a CLD Bilingual Education endorsement to indicate that you are highly qualified to be a leader in bilingual education.

Certificate Options

7. **Graduate Certificate in Teaching for Cultural and Linguistic Diversity -** This 3-course certificate provides content-area teachers (math, science, social studies, etc.) with a foundation for teaching content to multilingual students. The certificate is also valuable to content-area coaches or administrators with a commitment to diversity and social justice, and who provide support for teachers with multilingual learners in K - 12 classrooms. Courses are offered synchronously and asynchronously.

Special Pathways

BAMA @ UC Denver
This option is only available for those who chose the Bachelor to Master's (BAMA) pathway as part of their undergraduate education at UC Denver SEHD. As part of BAMA, students can apply up to 9 graduate-level credits toward their MA in CLDE.

ASPIRE to Teach @ UC Denver
This option is only available for those who satisfactorily completed the ASPIRE to Teach alternative certification program. If you completed ASPIRE, you are able to apply up to 9 credits toward the MA in CLDE.

Important Note on Obtaining your Endorsement through CDE

The School of Education & Human Development has instructions on "Applying for a License or Endorsement from CDE" on the Graduate Student Resources page of our web site. You need to go to the CDE website for the Educator License & Authorization Application Checklists. From the "I want to apply for…" menu, click on "Teacher License." There, you click on "Add Endorsement checklist…" There you'll find the in-state form: Approved Program Verification Form.

Complete the Applicant section, and send it to Shelley Gomez as an attached PDF to complete the College/University section. It is vital that you send the form as a PDF, not through a link to a shared drive, as the required fields are not accessible through a shared drive. Then, you submit the completed form to CDE with their additional requirements – fee, transcript, etc. CDE is the licensing authority; CU Denver provides CDE approved coursework to meet licensing requirements.