

SPECIAL EDUCATION GENERALIST

Field endorsement to teach grades K-12

Not all students learn in the same way. That's why special education teachers are vital to schools. With a Special Education degree for grades K-12, you'll be qualified to teach exceptional students of all ages. By studying behaviors and how these students learn, you'll have a better understanding of them and will be prepared to become a special education teacher. With a longstanding, excellent reputation for our Education program, Wayne State is the perfect place to begin your career in special education.

If you choose the Special Education (K-12) field endorsement, you are not required to choose any other endorsements to receive your B.A. or B.S.

fast facts

Hours: 120 total hours for endorsement

At least 120 hours are required for graduation from Wayne State College. Choosing a second academic area or additional subject or field endorsement will require additional hours.

Degrees offered: B.A. or B.S.

Department: Educational Foundations and Leadership

School: Education and Behavioral Sciences

Clinical practice: One semester of student teaching required

Recommended pairings: English as a Second Language (ESL), Reading and Writing (PK-6 or 7-12)

focus on results

Skills Learned

- Inclusive learning strategies
- Provisions for exceptional learners
- Understanding special education laws
- Engaging all learners in various classroom settings
- Monitoring and assessment
- Social, emotional, and behavior development
- Consulting and collaborating
- Teaching intermediate reading
- Human development and cognition
- Teaching and instruction methods

Possible Careers

- Elementary school teacher
- Middle school teacher
- High school teacher
- Special education teacher
- Learning coach
- After-school program manager
- Youth worker
- In-home tutor
- Behavioral specialist
- School counselor
- Educational consultant

Types of Employers

- Elementary schools
- Middle schools
- High schools
- Community programs
- Government programs
- Non-profit organizations
- Education / learning centers
- Special education centers
- Rehabilitation centers
- Disability and behavioral health centers

outside the classroom



Visit www.wsc.edu/clubs to learn more about clubs and organizations on campus.

Activities / Opportunities

- Northeast Nebraska Teacher Academy (NENTA)
- Peer tutoring
- Service-Learning

Clubs / Organizations

- Early Childhood Association
- Kappa Delta Pi
- Nebraska State Education Association (NSEA) Aspiring Educators
- Student Council for Exceptional Children

Sample program of study

2024-25 Academic Year

Every effort is made to ensure this information is current, but please be aware that some content may have changed. There is no substitute for developing a careful course registration plan in consultation with your advisor. The class sequence listed is suggested only. The final decision rests with the student and academic advisor.

Additional endorsements (field, subject, or supplemental) or at least 9 additional hours will be needed to reach the 120-hour minimum graduation requirement.

Freshman

EDU 150 Introduction to Professional Education	3
ENG 102 Composition Skills (General Studies CAT 1).....	3
CNA 100 Principles of Human Communications (General Studies CAT 2).....	3
SPD 160 Introduction to Special Education	3
SPD 252 Instructional Methods for Special Education K-6 (<i>spring only</i>).....	3
General Studies CAT 4, CAT 5, CAT 6, CAT 7, and CAT 8.....	15

Start completing initial benchmarks during EDU 245.

Sophomore

EDU 245 Preparing for Level 2: Teacher Candidacy (take with EDU 250 or first semester at WSC).....	0
EDU 250 Human Development and Cognition.....	3
EDU 275 PK-12 Instructional Design.....	3
*MAT 210 Math for Elementary School Teachers (General Studies CAT 3).....	3
MAT 215 Math for Elementary School Teachers II.....	3
SPD 254 Instructional Methods for Special Education 7-12 (<i>spring only</i>).....	3
SPD 255 Functional Curriculum and Instructional Methods (<i>fall only</i>).....	3
SPD 302 Inclusion and Co-teaching in General Education.....	3
General Studies CAT 9 and CAT 10	6

Advancement to Level 2: Acceptance to Educator Preparation Candidacy is required for enrollment in EDU/SPD 300-400 level courses.

*Additional math may be necessary if ACT is less than 19.

Junior

EDU 216 Children's Literature.....	3
EDU 332 Development of Language Arts in the Elementary and Middle School.....	3
EDU 341 Intermediate Reading.....	3
SPD 332 Special Education Law (<i>spring only</i>).....	3
SPD 352 Assessment, Evaluation, and the IEP K-12 (<i>spring only</i>).....	3
SPD 435 Classroom Management through Social/Emotional Learning K-6.....	3
SPD 436 Classroom Management through Social-Emotional Learning 7-12.....	3
SPD 452 Consultation and Collaboration (<i>fall only</i>).....	3
Approved course in SPD Professional Education core, chosen from the following: EDU 302 Curriculum, Standards, and Assessment in the Elementary School, EDU 318 Professional Communication, EDU 340 Early Reading, EDU 350 The Middle Level Teacher, SOC 245 Race and Ethnic Relations.....	3

Senior

EDU 423 Development of Social Studies in the Elementary and Middle School.....	3
EDU 430 Literacy Assessment.....	3
EDU 431 Development of Science in the Elementary and Middle School.....	3
EDU 432 Development of Mathematics in the Elementary and Middle School.....	3
EDU 445 Preparing for Level 3: Clinical Practice (semester before clinical practice)	0
SPD 461 Practicum in Special Education (100-hour field experience)..	3

Advancement to Level 3: Clinical Practice

SPD 458 Clinical Practice and Seminar for Special Education K-6.....	6
SPD 460 Clinical Practice and Seminar for Special Education 7-12.....	6

All persons seeking Nebraska certification are required to provide proof of a passing score on the Praxis Subject Assessment designated for the area(s) of endorsement. For information about the test requirements, please visit the Nebraska Department of Education website at www.education.ne.gov.

education faculty



Visit www.wsc.edu/education to learn more about the Department of Educational Foundations and Leadership.

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