2026-27 Academic Year

SPECIAL EDUCATION GENERALIST

Subject endorsement to teach grades K-8

Not all students learn in the same way, and there is a high demand for qualified special education teachers who can provide personalized instruction and support to students with disabilities, or students who may face unique challenges. In the Special Education degree program at Wayne State, you'll learn how to provide individualized instruction tailored to the unique needs of students with exceptionalities. You'll also learn about special education law and develop the advocacy skills needed to ensure your students receive the resources, support, and accommodations they need. The Special Education degree program at WSC will help you develop the collaboration strategies you'll need to work with professional service providers, agencies, and parents.

The Special Education Generalist (K-8) subject endorsement is not a standalone program. You must also select a second subject endorsement or field endorsement to receive your B.A. or B.S.

fast facts

Credit hours: 40

Students must also take 30 credit hours of General Studies courses. A total of 120 credit hours are needed to graduate from WSC. Additional majors or minors can be added to help meet graduation requirements.

Degree options: B.A. or B.S.

Department: Educational Foundations and Leadership

School: Education and Behavioral Sciences

Popular pairings: Coaching, Early Childhood Inclusive Education, Elementary Education, ESL Education, Reading and Writing Education

focus on results

Skills Learned

- Educational 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
- 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
- Community programs
- Government programs
- Non-profit organizations
- Education / learning centers
- Special education centers
- Rehabilitation centers
- Disability and behavioral health centers
- Distance learning 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

- Nebraska State Education Association (NSEA) Aspiring Educators
- Student Council for Exceptional Children

Courses and outcomes

2026-27 Academic Year

The following courses are required for the program of study described on this sheet. Every effort is made to ensure this information is current, but please be aware that some content may have changed. To develop a plan for registering and taking these courses, please consult the current academic catalog and your advisor.

Program courses

Take MAT 210 Mathematics for Elementary School Teachers I for CAT 3.

Special Education Content Courses

SPD 160 Introduction to Special Education 3
SPD 252 Instructional Methods for Special Education K-8 3
SPD 255 Functional Curriculum and Instructional Methods 3
SPD 332 Special Education Law 3
SPD 352 Assessment, Evaluation and the IEP K-12 3
SPD 452 Consultation and Collaboration 3

Professional Education Courses

EDU 150 Introduction to Professional Education 3
EDU 245 Preparing for Level 2: Teacher Candidacy 0
EDU 250 Human Development and Cognition 3
EDU 275 PK-12 Instructional Design 3
EDU 445 Preparing for Level 3: Clinical Practice 0
SPD 302 Inclusion and Co-teaching in General Education 3
SPD 435 Classroom Management through Social Emotional Learning K-8 3
SPD 461 Practicum in Special Education K-8 1
SPD 458 Clinical Practice and Seminar for Special Education K-8 6

Student learning outcomes

Special education

1. Use evidence-based inclusive practices to develop meaningful learning experiences for students with special educational needs in accordance with relevant legislation

Educator preparation

Teacher candidates who successfully complete an education preparation program at Wayne State will be able to:

1. Create environments that support individual and collaborative learning using knowledge of how students grow and develop, along with individual differences and diverse cultures. (InTASC Standards 1-3)
2. Plan for instruction by applying content knowledge, a variety of instructional strategies, and multiple methods of assessment to connect concepts for learners in real-world applications. (InTASC Standards 4-8)
3. Engage in ongoing professional learning and use evidence to reflect on and adapt practice to meet the needs of each learner. (InTASC Standard 9)
4. Seek leadership roles and opportunities to take responsibility for student learning, to collaborate with stakeholders, and to advance the profession. (InTASC Standard 10)

education faculty

Visit www.wsc.edu/educational-foundations-leadership-department to learn more about the Department of Educational Foundations and Leadership.

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