

SPECIAL EDUCATION, BSE

Special Education is the academic home to many students who enjoy working with children and youth, especially children and youth with disabilities. Special Education graduates enter a high-need field with an almost 100% job placement rate, with graduates finding employment in Wisconsin and across the country.

Students admitted to Special Education will have four certification options. Each of these options can be completed within a four-semester professional sequence that includes coursework, field experiences, and starts each fall.

CERTIFICATION OPTIONS

Special Education Cross-Categorical K-12

The program prepares educators to serve as resources and advocates for persons with disabilities and their families. This includes being a leader, collaborating with others, and working creatively within and outside schools to create inclusive educational experiences to improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities and their families.

Graduates are prepared to work effectively across disability categories, including intellectual and developmental disabilities, learning disabilities, and emotional/behavioral disorders. The program emphasizes coursework and experiences in elementary, middle, and high schools with students who have a wide range of abilities, including students with severe disabilities.

Elementary Education K-9 and Special Education K-12 (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/rehabilitation-psychology-special-education/elementary-education-special-education-bse/>)

The Elementary Education and Special Education teacher certification program prepares educators who foster high academic achievement in all children—particularly students of color, students from minoritized racial, cultural, linguistic and socioeconomic backgrounds, as well as students with disabilities. The program helps students become leaders who collaborate and work creatively within and outside schools to foster inclusive educational experiences for all pupils, including those with disabilities. Program graduates understand the important role that families play in supporting students' development and achievement.

This program emphasizes collaboration, with training in both Elementary and Special Education program areas. It focuses on inclusion and gaining a strong background in working with students across disability categories, including learning disabilities, emotional/behavioral disorders, and other high incidence disabilities.

Graduates receive a Bachelor of Science degree in Education and will be eligible to receive an Elementary Education license in grades K-9 and a Special Education license in grades K-12.

Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)

Graduates will be certified in ECSE, ages birth-grade 3. This program prepares early intervention and early childhood special education professionals to serve young children ages birth through eight years who have, or are at-risk for, developmental delays and disabilities, as well as the families of these children. Graduates may work in a variety

of settings including, but not limited to: Early Head Start, Head Start, licensed childcare centers, 4K programs, and grades kindergarten-grade 3.

Early Childhood Special Education and Special Education Cross-Categorical K-12

This option will prepare educators to support the needs of students with disabilities from birth through Grade 12. Students will be certified in both ECSE and Special Education Cross-Categorical K-12.

THE TEACHER PLEDGE

The School of Education at UW-Madison currently offers a unique financial opportunity for students in Special Education programs called The Teacher Pledge (<https://tec.education.wisc.edu/teacher-pledge/>). The school pledges to pay the equivalent of in-state tuition and fees for all teacher education students. In return, students pledge to work at a Wisconsin PreK-12 school for three to four years after graduation.

MADISON COLLEGE TRANSFER AGREEMENT

Madison College students should also investigate the transfer agreement (<https://tec.education.wisc.edu/become-a-teacher/uw-madison-school-of-education-transfer-agreement/>) between Madison College and UW-Madison. Students meeting the requirements of this agreement are guaranteed admission to UW-Madison's School of Education and to Special Education.