



WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

# Dual Certification in Special Education and Elementary Education

**Department of Special Education and the Department of Curriculum and Instruction  
College of Education and Human Services**

## **Program of Study**

The Department of Special Education and the Department of Curriculum and Instruction have developed a dual certification program for Special Education majors. This program prepares students to be certified in two areas, special education and elementary education, but is not a dual major program. It generally requires only one additional semester beyond the typical Special Education degree requirements.

This program is designed for individuals wanting to teach either special education or elementary education in Illinois schools. Successful completion of the Special Education program qualifies an individual to teach in a variety of settings at the K-12 levels. The program covers the following areas: Learning Disabilities, Social/Emotional Disorders (Behavior Disorders), Mental Disabilities, Autism, Traumatic Brain Injury, Physical Disabilities, and other health impairments across all levels of severity. In addition, this dual certification program will also qualify individuals to teach in self-contained kindergarten through 9th-grade classrooms. With additional coursework, graduates may earn endorsements in specific content areas and teach in departmentalized 5th- through 8th-grade classrooms.

Both programs are based on state and national standards. In addition to Special Education coursework, the dual certification program includes coursework in technology, literacy, and regular elementary methods as well as General Education requirements. Students are required to complete field experiences in public schools throughout their program and have the opportunity to choose one of their field experiences to enhance their understanding of working with a specific age or ability grouping. Student teaching, the final clinical experience, consists of two eight-week (full-time) placements in both elementary and secondary settings.

The Department of Special Education seeks to train quality teachers to teach across special needs categories in order to meet the individual education needs of students with disabilities. Our vision is to offer the highest quality teacher training for special education teachers and to provide advanced training to support academic excellence. In seeking to meet this vision, the Department of Special Education supports high academic standards and achievement, academic integrity, and excellence for learning and teaching in a diverse environment.

Coursework is designed to build upon previous courses; therefore, students must complete the program in a specific sequence, mastering one course before moving on to the next. The program requires that students be fully accepted into the Teacher Education Program (TEP) at Western before moving into advanced-level coursework. Students must establish and maintain a 2.75 cumulative and major GPA and must earn a minimum grade of "C" for all Special Education coursework, field experiences, and professional education coursework. Special Education students are required to take specified University General Education courses that will enhance the knowledge necessary to be successful in the field. Students are required to complete reflective papers and meet all TEP requirements. In addition to successfully completing the program, students will be required to pass all required state certification tests before qualifying for a teaching certificate.

HIGHER VALUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

## Faculty

The faculty in both the Department of Special Education and the Department of Curriculum and Instruction hold advanced degrees from notable universities across the United States. They are all experienced preschool to 12th-grade classroom teachers as well. They engage in a wide variety of scholarly activities that enhance their teaching, including collaboration with local education agencies; research; professional presentations; publishing in special education and general education journals, along with authorship of books and book chapters; and grant writing/project management. Several have won teaching, technology, and/or research awards.

## Transfer Students

Many students enroll in the Special Education program at Western after completing one or two years at a community college. Since the program is very specific and courses are sequential, it is imperative that students who are considering transferring into this program contact the Special Education adviser early for assistance with selecting appropriate community college classes that will meet specific education requirements and help make the transition from the community college to Western a smooth one. Academic advisers at the community colleges can also provide a list of courses to prepare students for acceptance into the Special Education program at Western.

## Student Organizations

Special Education majors are encouraged to join the Student Council for Exceptional Children (SCEC). Participation provides out-of-class learning experiences as well as the opportunity to network with other Special Education majors. Membership information is available in the department office.

## College of Education and Human Services' Special Facilities

The College of Education and Human Services' (COEHS) facilities include a 12,000-unit children's literature collection and an 18,000-unit curriculum laboratory. The curriculum laboratory includes textbooks, curriculum guides, tests, and multimedia materials such as CD-ROMs and laser discs, providing the tools necessary to construct valuable lesson plans.

COEHS has been committed to providing its faculty and students with state-of-the-art teaching and learning facilities. The College supports teaching with 30 fully operational electronic classrooms, including 17 teleconference-ready conference rooms and classrooms. Horrabin Hall, COEHS's main building, is a wireless environment, and the other campus buildings are being converted into wireless facilities.

## For More Information

For more information, contact the COEHS Advising Center at Horrabin Hall 91, 1 University Circle, Macomb IL 61455-1390, (309) 298-1438; or contact the Department of Special Education, Horrabin Hall 40, (309) 298-1909, fax (309) 298-1779, special-ed@wiu.edu, wiu.edu/specialled.

### Special Education with Elementary Education Certification Learning Behavior Specialist I (LBS1) Sequence of Courses

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4	Semester 5
Eng 180* 3	SpEd 280 1	Eng 280* 3	LLA 313 3	SpEd 370 4
Phys Science 3-4 3	SpEd 200 3	Comm 241* 3	SpEd 320 3	Rdg 383 3
Soc 100 3	Hist 105/106 3	EIS 201 3	SpEd 350 3	SSEd 365 3
Mus 190 3	Biology 100/101 4	Math 106* 3	Math 206* 3	EIS 301 3
Human Well Being 2	Social Science 3	SpEd 250 2	EIS 302 3	Math 364 3
PolS 122 3	Kin activity 1	SpEd 300 2	IDT 285 2	IDT 278 1
17-18	15	17	18	17
Technology Assessment – CS 111		State Basic Skills Test ( www.icts.nesinc.com)	Must be Accepted to TEP	
Semester 6	Semester 7	Semester 8	Semester 9	Semester 10
SpEd 460 1	SpEd 420 3	SpEd 440 3	EIEd 470 4	Student Teaching (16)
SpEd 400 4	SpEd 430 3	SpEd 445 3	ScEd 464 3	8 weeks elementary
Kin 393 3	Art 180 3	RPTA 330 3	Rdg 433 3	8 weeks secondary
Rdg 384 3	Math 367 3	Multicultural 3	C&I 403 4	
SSEd 495 3	SpEd 360 2	EIS 401 2	14	
ScEd 364 3	17	14	LBS1 Content test #155 & 163	
			APT Test #104	
			Visit our website: wiu.edu/cpep	

- Courses in BOLD are to be taken in semester specified.
- \*Courses need to be finished by end of sophomore year.
- The Department of Special Education reserves the right to make changes or substitutions in courses.

# wiu.edu/specialled

## Department of Special Education

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