



WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

# Learning Behavior Specialist – I K-12 Certification

Department of Special Education, College of Education & Human Services

## Program of Study

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.

This program is designed for individuals wanting to teach special education in Illinois. Successful completion of the 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.

The program is based on standards. In addition to Special Education coursework, the 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.

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 which will enhance the knowledge necessary in the field. Students are required to complete the Teacher Education Portfolio, 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.

## Faculty

The faculty in the Department of Special Education 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: 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.

HIGHER VALUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

**Transfer Students**

Many students enroll in the Special Education program at Western after completing one or two years at a community college. Because 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 you make a smooth transition from the community college to Western. Academic advisers at the community college can also provide a list of courses to prepare you 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, e-mail: Special-Ed@wiu.edu; or visit our website at wiu.edu/SpecialEd.

**Special Education Sequence of Courses**

Eng 180* Math 106* Phys Science Soc 100 Kin activity PolS 122 Technology Assessment	College Writing Math for Elem Teachers	(3) (3) (3) (3) (1) (3)	<b>SpEd 280</b> <b>SpEd 200</b> Hist 105/106 Math 206* Biol 100/101 CS 111	(1) (4) (3) (3) (4) (1)	<b>Freshman Year</b>  Courses in <b>BOLD</b> are to be taken in the 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.
Eng 280* Comm 241* Human Well Being IDT 285 <b>SpEd 300</b> State Basic Skills Test (www.icts.nesinc.com)		(3) (3) (2-3) (3) (4)	EIS 201 <b>SpEd 320</b> <b>SpEd 350</b> Humanities Social Science <b>MUST BE ACCEPTED TO TEP</b>	(3) (3) (3) (3) (3)	<b>Sophomore Year</b>
<b>SpEd 370</b> Rdg 383 SSEd 365 Multicultural EIS 301		(4) (3) (3) (3) (3)	<b>SpEd 460</b> <b>SpEd 400</b> KIN 393 RDG 384 SCED 364 Math 364 IDT 278	(1) (4) (3) (3) (3) (3) (1)	
<b>SpEd 420</b> <b>SpEd 430</b> Rdg 433 EIS 302 Humanities		(3) (3) (3) (3) (3)	<b>SpEd 440</b> <b>SpEd 445</b> RPTA 330 EIS 401 <b>SpEd 360</b> Portfolio Review <b>LBS1 Content Test</b>	(3) (3) (3) (2) (2)	
<b>Student Teaching</b> 8 weeks elementary 8 weeks secondary <b>APT Test</b>		(16)			

wiu.edu/SpecialEd

**Department of Special Education**

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