

B.S in Special Education Advisement Manual

Department of Educational Specialties
University of Nevada, Reno
College of Education

Thank you for your interest in the Special Education program! We think we have an exciting program that will prepare you for today's inclusive schools as a special education teacher in grades K-12. We want to provide you with a high-quality experience as you gain the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to become an outstanding educator!

GOALS OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

The SPECIAL EDUCATION Program at the University of Nevada, Reno is designed to prepare you to meet the educational needs of the wide variety of children. To accomplish this, you will receive experiences in several key areas: educational psychology and human development, education of culturally diverse and special needs populations, practical and sequential experiences teaching in the schools, teaching methodology, and a strong liberal arts education.

Degree Program - As a prospective teacher, you will earn a bachelor's degree upon completion of the designated four-year program of study (128 credits). The final semester of this program is spent in a 12 credit internship (student teaching).

Program Organization - Your program is referred to as an integrated program because coursework in several areas is combined: general education, professional education and your area of specialization. As you enter the university you will take courses primarily in general education to continue your own intellectual growth. As you progress through your program of study, you will find that general education courses give way to study in your area of specialization and professional education coursework has a more prominent place in your program.

Teaching License - Completion of the SPECIAL EDUCATION program enables you to apply for a Nevada teaching license -- the Generalist Endorsement (K-12) that prepares you to teach students with learning disabilities, behavioral disorders, and mental retardation with mild to moderate needs for intervention.

Program Accreditation - Teacher education programs at the University of Nevada, Reno, are accredited by the National Council for Accreditation in Teacher Education (NCATE), the most prestigious accrediting agency for teacher preparation programs. National accreditation makes it easier for students to become licensed in other states should it become necessary to relocate after completion of the teacher education program.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

The selection of courses within the program must be made with the approval of the College of Education Student Advisement Center. Always refer to the [University of Nevada, Reno-General Catalog](#) for general information and to your DARS report and advisement manual for specific details. It is your responsibility to adhere to degree requirements, time lines, and UNR and College of Education policies and procedures.

MEETING UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE OF EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

While you are a student at UNR, you will be working to meet both University of Nevada requirements for graduation and College of Education requirements for licensure as a teacher. These requirements are not always the same. If you transfer credit from another institution, your work will first be evaluated for the University's Core Curriculum requirements. Once that is done, your education adviser can evaluate the remaining courses according to College of Education requirements. Your education adviser cannot approve Core Curriculum requirements.

Core Curriculum Requirements (UNR) - The university requires that you complete the Core

Curriculum, a general studies curriculum that is intended to help you become a well-educated person with competent reading, writing and thinking skills. The Core Curriculum includes courses in English, mathematics, sciences, social science, diverse cultures, western traditions, and fine arts. You will find a description of the Core Curriculum requirements in your general university catalog. Your study in the Core Curriculum culminates in courses that are described as integrative experiences - Capstone Courses. You are required to take two Capstone Courses to complete your general university studies. In the SPECIAL EDUCATION program, one of your capstones must be EDUC 413. You must be at junior standing and have completed CH 201, 202, and 203 before enrolling in a capstone course.

College of Education Requirements - As a special education teacher, it is likely that you will teach many subjects to students with different learning needs at a variety of grade levels. With so many possibilities, you must have a strong background in basic subjects (English, mathematics, science and social studies) as well as other more specialized areas. Therefore, the College of Education has specific requirements for more extensive coursework in key areas.

Outstanding scholarship is recognized by the Dean of the College of Education each semester by naming qualified students to the Dean's List. To be on the Dean's List, students must obtain a 3.65 grade point average the previous semester while taking a minimum of 12 credits. Students meeting the requirements for the Dean's List will be sent a letter from the dean recognizing their academic accomplishments.

RETENTION PROCEDURES

A. Admission to Teacher Education. Applications for admission to teacher education are accepted twice a year: **October 1** and **March 1**. To be considered for admission to a teacher education program (which leads to eligibility for a teaching license in Nevada), you must have an overall GPA of 2.75 or better. This overall GPA requirement must be maintained throughout your program. In addition, you must have passed all three sections of the PRAXIS I or Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST). These requirements are minimums and do not guarantee admission to teacher education. The number of students accepted will be determined by the space available in the advanced courses.

Admission to the SPECIAL EDUCATION program entitles students to enroll in advanced methods courses (i.e., EDS courses numbered 300 or higher). For further information on any of the procedures for admission to teacher education including October and March deadlines, please contact the Student Advisement Center in the College of Education.

To apply for admission to the SPECIAL EDUCATION teacher education program, students must:

- 1) have completed 30 credits of college course work
- 2) have a minimum GPA of 2.75
- 3) pass the reading, writing, and mathematics sections of the PPST (Pre-Professional Skills Test) or the CBEST
- 4) complete an application form for Admission to Teacher Education
- 5) submit 2 letters of recommendation, and
- 6) submit a typed 2-3 page essay on the topic shown in the application packet.

B. Performance Assessment Portfolio. Throughout your teacher preparation program, you will produce projects, papers, and other assignments that reflect your growing knowledge and skills as a special education teacher. In the semester prior to Supervised Internship (student teaching), you will assemble these and other required materials into a Performance Assessment Portfolio that addresses how you have met the professional standards for beginning teachers. More information about the portfolio will be given in classes throughout your program, and guidelines for the portfolio are available in the EDS Department Office.

C. Application for the Supervised Internship. Application for the Supervised Internship must be completed during the semester **BEFORE** the student plans to intern. Applications for FALL semester are due by MARCH 15; applications for SPRING semester are due by SEPTEMBER 15. This form is available in the office of the Director of Field Experiences. Criteria for approval of the internship include:

1. Completion of ALL required courses.
2. A minimum overall GPA of 2.75 with a grade of “C” or better in all methods courses
3. A satisfactory Performance Assessment Portfolio
4. Qualified in the professional judgment of the faculty.
5. A current valid substitute teaching license for the State of Nevada.*

**Students who will not teach in Nevada may choose to have fingerprinting and a background check completed through a local police department. In addition, such students must submit proof of a recent TB skin test. This process must be completed prior to approval for an internship placement. .*

Students who wish to be placed outside of Washoe County must have an overall GPA of 3.0 and complete a special request for placement. See the Director of Field Experiences for this form. To be eligible for an internship placement (student teaching) in public schools, have received a Nevada Substitute Teacher License, including fingerprinting and a background check. Obtaining a substitute license also makes the process of applying for a teaching credential in Nevada much easier. It is recommended that you apply for a substitute license upon completion of 62 credits of college course work, including the completion of at least 6 credits of courses in education or psychology.

Praxis II Exam. Under the No Child Left Behind Act, fully qualified teachers are those individuals who hold an appropriate clear Nevada teaching license. A clear license requires that all requirements are complete including passage of appropriate Praxis II exams. Special education majors will be eligible for graduation as long as you complete all requirements for the degree, but you will not be considered a “program completer” with notice of completion sent to the Nevada Department of Education until you pass the required Praxis II exams.

Those seeking special education licensure must pass a special education test and the professional knowledge test. For the exact tests required, please consult the Student Advisement Center in the College of Education. This test must be passed prior to the end of your internship in order for you to be listed as having completed an approved program and be eligible for a teaching license.

D. Application for Graduation. Applications for graduation must be submitted with a current DARS by the due date in the semester prior to the graduating semester. All requirements for graduation must have been completed or in progress. For exact details regarding submission of graduation applications, consult the Student Advisement Center in the College of Education. In order to graduate with a B.S. degree, a student must:

1. meet all the requirements of the CORE curriculum.
2. meet all of the requirements of the SPECIAL EDUCATION program.
3. have earned a minimum of 128 credits, with a minimum of 40 credits in upper division courses.
4. have a minimum overall GPA of 2.75.

Application for the Teaching License. The license is granted by the Nevada Department of Education in Carson City, Nevada. The student must obtain the application form from the Nevada Department of Education in Carson City, arrange for forwarding required documentation (official transcripts, PRAXIS II scores) and pay the fee to receive the license. The University does not grant the license. Typically, students make application during the Internship.

Department of Educational Specialties
Undergraduate Special Education Major: Suggested Sequence

EDS – affiliated courses are in **bold**

Year	Fall Semester	Spring Semester
1	English 101 Core Math Core Fine Arts EDU 203 Introduction to Special Education Elective <p style="text-align: right;">15 credits</p>	English 102 Math (above 120) Core Social Science EDU 208 Char of Stdnts w/Mild to Mod Disabilities EDU 214 Preparing Teachers to Use Technology <p style="text-align: right;">15 credits</p>
2	CH 201 Foundations of Western Culture Math (above 120) Science B EDU 207 Exploration of Children' s Literature Elective (3 cr) <p style="text-align: right;">15 credits</p>	CH 202 Science A EDU 211 Intro to Teaching in Inclusive Classrooms EDU 209 Exceptional Child Experience EDU 212 Family Involve for Stdnts w/wo Disabilities Elective (2 cr) <p style="text-align: right;">17 credits</p>
3	CH 203 Science A or B EPY 330A Educational Psychology EL 401 EDRL 442 Literacy Instruction I General Capstone <p style="text-align: right;">18 credits</p>	* EDSP 453 Behav Mgmt Tech for Students w/Disabil * EDES 413 Refining Tchng Skills: Practic/Seminar EDRL 443 Literacy Instruction II EDSP 444 Special Ed Curriculum: Approach for Adol (spring only) EDSP 463 Assess & Instruct K-12 Math Strug Learn (spring only) EDUC 413 Educ for a Changing World (capstone) <p style="text-align: right;">18 credits</p>
4	* EDSP 443 Special Ed Curric: General Methods * EDSP 452 Assessment for Special Ed Teachers * EDES 317 Engaging Stdnts Lrng: Practic/Seminar EDRL 461 Diagnosis Assessment & Instruc Literacy EDSP 423 Collaboration/Consultation in Spec Ed (fall only) <p style="text-align: right;">15 credits</p>	EDSP 493 Supervised Internship in Special Education EDSP 494 Internship Seminar in Educ Specialties <p style="text-align: right;">15 credits</p>

* Take these courses together (semesters can be switched but courses should be blocked as listed)

TOTAL = 128 credits

PROGRAM PREREQUISITES AND OTHER IMPORTANT DETAILS

1. **English 102** must be completed before enrolling in **CH 201, 202 or 203**.
2. **Core Humanities 201** must be taken before either **CH 202** or **CH 203**.
3. **Mathematics** - You must take at least one Core math course (Math 120, 128, 152, 176, 178, or 181). The remaining credits in mathematics may be fulfilled by courses numbered 122 or higher. Many students elect to take Math 122 Number Concepts for Elem Teachers, and Math 123 Stats and Geom Concepts for Elem Teachers. These courses will help you explore the types of mathematics that you will teach children, such as the structure of number systems, probability and geometry. Math 122 and 123 are available through Correspondence Study. We suggest that correspondence study be considered only if you make a B or better in your Core math course. Correspondence study often takes more time than students anticipate. **You must complete the 9 credit mathematics requirement before taking mathematics methods EDSP 463.**
4. **CH 201, 202 & 203** must be completed before taking either of the **Capstone Courses (EDUC 413 & an elective capstone)**, the culminating courses in the core curriculum.
5. **Eleven credits of electives** are needed in the SPECIAL EDUCATION program to reach the 128 credits required for graduation. In addition, consult with your advisor regarding appropriate elective undergraduate courses in the areas of (a) early childhood special education and (b) mental retardation.
6. **EDU 203** is prerequisite to **EDU 208**.
7. **EDU 211 & 209** must be taken together and are prerequisites for the special education courses numbered 300 or greater.
8. **EPY 330a** should be taken in conjunction with EDU 211 and 209 if possible.
9. **EDU 207** is a co-requisite or pre-requisite to **EDRL 442**.
10. **EDRL 442** is prerequisite to **EDRL 443 and EDRL 461**.
11. Some courses are offered only in the spring or only in the fall semesters. Please check with your advisor when making course selections.
12. **EDSP 443, EDSP 452 and EDSP 482** must be taken together.
13. **EDSP 453, EDSP 444 and EDSP 483** must be taken together.
14. All courses must be completed prior to enrolling in the Supervised Internship
14. In order to earn your teaching license you must pass relevant sections of the PRAXIS II. Those seeking special education licensure must pass a special education test and the professional knowledge test. For the exact tests required, please consult the Student Advisement Center in the College of Education. While it does not affect your graduation, this test must be passed prior to ending of your internship in order for you to be listed as having completed an approved program and be eligible for a teaching license.