SPECIAL EDUCATION, B.S.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: University Park

Program Description
The emphasis throughout the Special Education program is upon a broad clinical teaching model. Course work and practicum experiences focus upon the identification and management of a wide range and degree of educational and behavioral problems of students with disabilities between the ages of 3 and 21. A core of Special Education courses aimed at general skill development in the areas of diagnosis, identification, development of materials and teaching strategies, implementation, and evaluation is required of all students.

This major focuses on teaching principles and methodologies, classroom and behavioral management, and the development of teaching materials for children and youths with mild, moderate, and severe disabilities. This program helps prepare special education teachers to meet the needs of students enrolled in early intervention, elementary and secondary public school special education programs.

What is Special Education?
Our goal is an educational system in which teachers, families, and communities share responsibility and commitment for preparing students to live independent, productive, and personally satisfying lives to the fullest extent possible. This goal includes: Having a positive influence on the inclusion of persons who are culturally, physically or intellectually diverse; Providing national leadership in the development of new knowledge in special education; Preparing teachers to use effective practices in special education. Teachers will be eligible to earn PA Teaching Certification in Pre-K through age 21 upon completion of the program.

You Might Like This Program If...
- You want to make a difference in the lives of children, families, adolescents, and adults.
- You like working with individuals with disabilities in the home, schools, or community.
- You like a challenge.
- You want to teach, to be an agent of change, and to be an advocate.
- You seek out solutions.
- You want to know more!

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SPECIAL EDUCATION (https://ed.psu.edu/special-education-bachelor-science/)

Entrance to Major
Eligibility for entry to the Special Education program is based on the following set criteria:

1. Cumulative grade-point average of 3.00 is required (all PA teacher preparation programs require a 3.0 at entry and exit of program)
2. Applicants must complete a number of prerequisite courses and other requirements. The following courses must be passed with a grade of "C" or better: CI 280, EDPSY 10 or EDPSY 11, EDPSY 14, EDPSY 101, EDTHP 115, MATH 200, PSYCH 100, PSYCH 212.
3. Documentation of at least 80 hours of volunteer or paid education work experience with learners of the age group the candidate plans to teach. Candidates for Special Education must document two separate 40-hour experiences in two different settings, with learners who have special needs. One experience should include learners with a different level of severity or functioning (e.g., mild/severe, young/adult) from those learners in the other experience. One experience should also include learners with cultural, social, or ethnic backgrounds different from the candidate's own.
4. Completion of at least 48 semester credit hours, including ENGL 15 or ENGL 30H, and 3 credits of literature.
5. Approval from the professional education adviser or the head of the pertinent certification program.

Students may be admitted to the program by declaring Special Education as a major, transferring from a previously declared major, or transferring from another institution of higher education.

Students cannot be formally admitted to Special Education before their fifth semester.

Students are assigned to one selection pool. For example, Freshmen admitted in the summer or fall of 2014 are automatically assigned to the spring 2016 selection pool. Students who wish to transfer into Special Education from another major or university will be assigned to a selection pool based on the total number of credits they have earned and their completion of College of Education prerequisite courses.

Degree Requirements
For the Bachelor of Science degree in Special Education, a minimum of 122 credits is required (See also Teacher Education Programs (https://ed.psu.edu/academics/teacher-testing-certification/)):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

18 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: 6 credits of GH courses; 6 credits of GQ courses; 6 credits of GS courses.

Requirements for the Major
A grade of C or better per course is required for all Special Education prerequisites and teacher certification.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CI 280</td>
<td>Introduction to Teaching English Language Learners</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDPSY 14</td>
<td>Learning and Instruction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDPSY 101</td>
<td>Analysis and Interpretation of Statistical Data in Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDTHP 115</td>
<td>Education in American Society</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 200</td>
<td>Problem Solving in Mathematics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 100</td>
<td>Introductory Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 212</td>
<td>Introduction to Developmental Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Select 3 credits in Literature:

- AFAM 147: The Life and Thought of Malcolm X
- CAMS 1: Greek and Roman Literature
- CAMS 45: Classical Mythology
- CMLIT 1: Introduction to Western Literatures Through the Renaissance

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better

Select 3 credits in Literature:

- AFAM 147: The Life and Thought of Malcolm X
- CAMS 1: Greek and Roman Literature
- CAMS 45: Classical Mythology
- CMLIT 1: Introduction to Western Literatures Through the Renaissance

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better

Select 3 credits from the following:

- ENGL 2: The Great Traditions in English Literature
- ENGL 101: Introduction to Literature
- ENGL 103: The Great Traditions in American Literature
- ENGL 104: The Bible as Literature
- ENGL 129: Shakespeare
- ENGL 130: Reading Popular Texts
- ENGL 133: Modern American Literature to World War II
- ENGL 134: American Comedy
- ENGL 135: Alternative Voices in American Literature
- ENGL 136: The Graphic Novel
- ENGL 140: Contemporary Literature
- ENGL 145: Modern Irish Literature
- ENGL 170N: Introduction to American Folklore
- ENGL 180: Literature and the Natural World
- ENGL 181C: The Beach: Exploring the Literature of the Atlantic Shore
- ENGL 182: Literature and Empire
- ENGL 184: The Short Story
- ENGL 191: Science Fiction
- ENGL 192: The Literature of Fantasy
- ENGL 194: Women Writers
- ENGL 200: Introduction to Critical Reading
- ENGL 201: What is Literature
- ENGL 205: Children's Literature
- ENGL 221: British Literature to 1798
- ENGL 222: British Literature from 1798
- ENGL 224N: Authors and Artists
- ENGL 226: Latina and Latino Border Theories
- ENGL 228: Introduction to Disability Studies in the Humanities
Engagement Plan.

University Degree Requirements

First Year Engagement

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

• United States Cultures: 3 credits
• International Cultures: 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits

A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition

The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (https://senate.psu.edu/policies-andrules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#83-80)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

Integrated B.S. in Special Education and M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction

Requirements for the Integrated B.S. in Special Education and M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction can be found in the Graduate Bulletin (https://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/curriculum-instruction/

#integratedundergradgradprogramtext).

Academic Advising

The objectives of the university’s academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee’s unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.


**University Park**

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**Suggested Academic Plan**

The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2024-25 academic year. To access previous years’ suggested academic plans, please visit the archive (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/archive/) to view the appropriate Undergraduate Bulletin edition.

**Special Education, B.S. at University Park Campus and Commonwealth Campuses**

The course series listed below provides only one of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an Academic Requirements or What If report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

### First Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits春</th>
<th>Credits秋</th>
<th>Total Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDTHP 115†</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUC 100</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 15 or 30H†</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 200†‡</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 100††</td>
<td>3 General Education Course (Inter-Domain)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course (GN)</td>
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### Second Year

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Credits秋</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CI 280 (GH)</td>
<td>3 CAS 100A††</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDPSY 14†</td>
<td>3 General Education Course (Inter-Domain)</td>
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<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course (GN)</td>
<td>3 General Education Course (GA)</td>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course (GHW)</td>
<td>1.5 General Education Course (GHW)</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>18.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minor/Elective</td>
<td>3 Minor/Elective</td>
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### Third Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Credits春</th>
<th>Credits秋</th>
<th>Total Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPLED 395W†</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPLED 401†</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPLED 410†</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPLED 415†</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
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### Fourth Year

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits春</th>
<th>Credits秋</th>
<th>Total Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 202A or 202B†</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPLED 409A†</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPLED 409B†</td>
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<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPLED 409C†</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPLED 495G</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Credits 123**

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major
† Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education
‡ Course is an Entrance to Major requirement
‡‡ Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

**University Requirements and General Education Notes:**

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy Cultural Diversity Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ), Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS) and Integrative Studies (Inter-domain) requirements. N or Q (Honors) is the suffix at the end of a course number used to help identify an Inter-domain course, but the inter-domain attribute is used to fill audit requirements. Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of ‘C’ or better.

All incoming Schreyer Honors College first-year students at University Park will take ENGL 137H/CAS 137H in the fall semester and ENGL 138T/CAS 138T in the spring semester. These courses carry the GWS designation and satisfy a portion of that General Education requirement. If the student’s program prescribes GWS these courses will replace both ENGL 15/ENGL 30H and CAS 100A/CAS 100B/CAS 100C. Each course is 3 credits.

2 No additional coursework permitted during student teaching.

### Career Paths

Career opportunities for graduates with teaching certification include:

- An M.Ed. graduate degree (https://ed.psu.edu/special-education-master-education/) and eligibility for PA certification in special education.
- Special Education Supervisory program for PDE certification
- Focused program for working with all learners with Autism (https://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/degrees-and-certificates/penn-state-
• Professionals may also be interested in the focus the Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) program certificate (https://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/degrees-and-certificates/penn-state-online-applied-behavior-analysis-graduate-certificate/) to prepare BCBAs and behavior therapists
• Online programs for teachers to support all learners in Academic and Behavioral Supports program (https://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/degrees-and-certificates/penn-state-online-special-education-masters-degree/)

Professional Resources
• Council for Exceptional Children (https://exceptionalchildren.org)

Accreditation
The College of Education educator preparation programs are fully accredited at the Initial and Advanced levels by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). The next CAEP program review will be Fall 2026. CAEP advances excellence in educator preparation through evidence-based accreditation that assures quality and supports continuous improvement to strengthen P-12 student learning.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ACCREDITATION OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM (https://ed.psu.edu/about/accreditations/)

Professional Licensure/Certification
Many U.S. states and territories require professional licensure/certification to be employed. If you plan to pursue employment in a licensed profession after completing this program, please visit the Professional Licensure/Certification Disclosures by State (https://opair.psu.edu/plc/dashboard/) interactive map.

Contact
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