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 diagnosis 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, prescription, 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 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 in the mainstream of American life; Providing national leadership in the development of new knowledge in special education; Preparing teachers to use effective practices in special education. Students in the Special Education Program have an opportunity to enroll in an integrated undergraduate – graduate program with the Reading Specialist Program in which students earn a bachelor's degree and certification in both areas.

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/epcse/special-education/programs/bachelors-of-science/)

Entrance to Major
Baccalaureate degree candidates must meet the following requirements 1-3 by the end of their third semester:
1. A minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.00
2. Satisfaction of the ETS Praxis CORE exam, in order to meet the Pennsylvania Department of Education Basic Skills Testing requirement.
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 candidates own.

Requirements 4-9 must be met by the end of the fourth semester when students typically participate in the Entrance-to-Major process.
1. A grade of ’C’ or better in all specified courses.
2. Completion of an early field experience specified by the certification program.
3. Completion of a core of Education courses specified by the certification program.
4. Completion of additional credits as specified by the certification program.
5. Completion of at least 48 semester credit hours, including ENGL 15 or ENGL 30, three credits of literature, and six credits of quantification.
6. Approval from the professional education adviser or the head of the pertinent certification program.

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/epcse/special-education/programs/bachelors-of-science/bachelor-of-science-in-special-education/)).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electives (Students may apply 3 credits of ROTC.)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>86</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

12-15 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: 6 credits of GQ courses; 6 credits of GS courses.

General Education
Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.
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 (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#83-80)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

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

Integrated B.S. in Special Education - M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction
The Special Education and Curriculum and Instruction with Emphasis in Language and Literacy Education Integrated Undergraduate-Graduate (SE/CI-LLED IUG) Degree Program consists of integration of required courses for a B.S. in Special Education with courses required for certification as a Reading Specialist and a M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction with emphasis in Language and Literacy Education. The five-year, SE/CI-LLED IUG is an option for highly qualified students seeking certification to teach Special Education in Pennsylvania in grades K-12. Completion of the IUG (along with earning a passing score on PDE required PRAXIS tests) leads to a B.S. in Special Education, certification in Special Education and as a Reading Specialist in the state of Pennsylvania, and a M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction. Students are expected to complete courses required for the graduate level K-12.
reading specialist concurrent with their undergraduate experiences and coursework in Special Education and will complete a capstone Special Education teaching experience in their final semester.

**Time of Admission to SE/CI-LLED IUG**

Students wishing to apply for admission to the SE/CI-LLED IUG initiate application during the semester in which they complete SPLED 495E. They finalize the application process at the end of the semester with a grade of B or better in SPLED 412. While this is typically the end of the junior year of study, it may fall sooner or later.

**Joint Admission Process**

Special Education and Curriculum and Instruction are located in the College of Education, with Reading Specialist certification offered through the Department of Curriculum and Instruction’s emphasis area in Language and Literacy Education. Admission to the SE/CI-LLED IUG will be based upon having attained a minimum GPA of 3.5 or higher, with a grade of B or better in SPLED 412.

Admission will be based on a recommendation by the Reading Specialist Program Coordinator in consultation with the Coordinator of Teacher Education in Special Education.

Students will be expected to maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 throughout the IUG program of study. Failure to do so will result in the student being placed on academic probation for one semester; after which time, if the GPA is not 3.0 or higher, the student will be dropped from the IUG.

If the student decides not to continue enrollment in the joint SE/CI-LLED IUG, the student may, contingent upon fulfilling all other requirements for the B.S. in SPLED, complete SPLED 495 (the traditional capstone field experience) in their final semester and graduate with a B.S. in Special Education.

**Advising**

Beginning during the application process, as well as subsequent to admission, students should communicate with both their SPLED program adviser and the program adviser for the CI Reading Specialist program to ensure requirements of both programs are met.

**Reduced Course Load**

EDPSY 421 and LLED 595A may be double counted for the M.Ed. as well as the B.S. degree.

**Tuition Charges**

Undergraduate tuition rates will apply as long as the student is an undergraduate, unless the student receives financial support, for example, an assistantship requiring payment of graduate tuition (from ‘Information and Guidelines for Establishing Integrated Undergraduate-Graduate Degree Programs’ - approved by the Graduate Council, May 8, 1996).

**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.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/)

**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 2020-21 academic year. To access previous years’ suggested academic plans, please visit the archive (http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/archive/) to view the appropriate Undergraduate Bulletin edition (Note: the archive only contain suggested academic plans beginning with the 2018-19 edition of the Undergraduate Bulletin).

**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**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 15 or 30#</td>
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<td>EDPSY 101#†</td>
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<td>MATH 200#†</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>EDPSY 101#†</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 100#†</td>
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<td>PSYCH 212#†</td>
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<td>EDTHP 115#†</td>
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<td>Literature Selection #†</td>
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<td>EDUC 100</td>
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<td>Science Selection #†</td>
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**Second Year**

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<tr>
<td>EDPSY 14#</td>
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<td>CAS 100A#†</td>
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<td>Science Selection†</td>
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<td>Science Selection†</td>
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<tr>
<td>Art Selection</td>
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<td>Art Selection</td>
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<td>Health and Physical Activity</td>
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<td>Health and Physical Activity</td>
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<td>Humanities Selection</td>
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<td>Minor/Elective</td>
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**Third Year**

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<th>Fall</th>
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<tr>
<td>SPLED 395W*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SPLED 404*</td>
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<td>SPLED 401*</td>
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<td>SPLED 411*</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>SPLED 406*</td>
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<td>SPLED 412*</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPLED 425*</td>
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<td>SPLED 454*</td>
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EDPSY 421* 3 SPLED 495E* 3

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<thead>
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<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
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**Fourth Year**

**Fall**

- SPLED 409A* 3
- SPLED 409B† 3
- SPLED 409C‡ 3
- SPLED 495G# 4
- ENGL 202A or 202B† 3

**Spring**

- SPLED 495F* 2
- SPLED 418* 3

**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 is an Entrance to Major requirement

**University Requirements and General Education Notes:**

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy University 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.

GWS, GQ, GHW, GN, GA, GH, and GS are abbreviations used to identify General Education program courses. General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ) and Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS, and Integrative Studies). Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of ‘C’ or better.

Integrative Studies courses are required for the General Education program. N is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate an Inter-Domain course and Z is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate a Linked course.

All incoming Schreyer Honors College first-year students at University Park will take ENGL/CAS 137 in the fall semester and ENGL/CAS 138 in the spring semester. These courses carry the GWS designation and replace both ENGL 30 and CAS 100. Each course is 3 credits.

1 Literature Selection list of acceptable courses available here (https://ed.psu.edu/current-students/undergrad/academic-programs-1/literature/).
2 No additional coursework permitted during student teaching.

**Career Paths**

Career opportunities for graduates with teaching certification include:

- Focused program for working with all learners with Autism (https://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/degrees-and-certificates/autism-certificate/overview/)
- Professionals may also be interested in the focus the Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) program certificate (https://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/degrees-and-certificates/applied-behavior-analysis-for-special-education-certificates/overview/) 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/overview/)

**Professional Resources**

- Council for Exceptional Children (https://www.cec.sped.org/)

**Accreditation**

The College of Education educator preparation program is currently NCATE accredited and is seeking accreditation by the Council for the Accreditation of Education Preparation (CAEP) in Spring 2019. 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/internal/associate-dean-undergrad/accreditation-and-program-review/Accreditation/)

**Contact**

**University Park**

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https://ed.psu.edu/epcse/special-education/faculty-staff (https://ed.psu.edu/epcse/special-education/faculty-staff/)