

**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

**Teacher Certification Program**

The primary focus in undergraduate special education is preparing teachers to serve students that have intellectual, physical, behavioral, or emotional disabilities. Through a partnership with the Elementary Education Department, students majoring in Special Education earn dual certification allowing them to teach special education in grades K-12 and elementary education in grades K-6. This dual certification program is ideal for today's educators who must meet the challenges of delivering services in inclusive settings.

**Career Opportunities in Education**

Graduates are qualified for a variety of classroom settings. Graduates who choose jobs as special education teachers are prepared to meet the needs of students by providing direct classroom instruction, collaborating and consulting with elementary and secondary teachers in adapting curriculum and instruction, and serving as coordinators of instructional support teams. Graduates who choose careers in elementary education are prepared not only to provide direct instruction, and work with teams to deliver services to special pupils who are included in the general education classroom.

**CPAD Program**

Another focus in undergraduate special education is to prepare professionals to serve individuals with disabilities in non-public school settings. This unique programs combines course work in special education with classes in business, public relations and other fields to prepare individuals to serve clients as case managers, program supervisors, sheltered living specialists, employment supervisors, and as mental health/mental retardation specialists. CPAD is a non-certification program.

**Liberal Education Requirements\***

Approximately one-half of a student's courses will be credited toward completing liberal studies requirements. The liberal studies program is designed to provide students with the breadth of knowledge expected of an educated person in our society. These courses complement the depth of speciality acquired in a student's major.

The program contains seven critical goals or areas of study. For each area, students select one or two classes from a selection of "goal courses." In addition, in some areas of study, students select a course from a wide class selection identified as "enrichment courses." These courses provide the opportunity to broaden and deepen knowledge in the goal area. Lastly, co-curricular "Supporting Experiences," are identified. These activities and programs available to all students and encompass working on student publications, belonging to honorary societies or working with various special on-campus special interest groups.

*\*All SRU students must complete the liberal studies requirements, which are counted in the total credit hours required for graduation and may be contained in the Major Requirements previously listed.*

**Contact**

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**Entrance Requirements**

Official High School Transcripts, including a 12th Grade class schedule if applicable  
SAT or ACT Scores  
\$25.00 application fee

**Major Requirements**

*BSED*

Certification in Special Education & Elementary Education

53 credits	Liberal Studies
27 credits	Foundations in Education
30 credits	Special Education
25 credits	Elementary Education
12 credits	Student Teaching

*BS*

Community Programs for Adults with Disabilities

53 credits	Liberal Studies
21 credits	Education Foundations
15 credits	Special Education
19 credits	Business & Management
12 credits	Internship

## Minor in Exceptionalities

The Special Education Department offers a minor which is open to all undergraduate, degree-seeking SRU students. *Requirements for the Minor in Exceptionalities include SPED 100, 203, 204, 312 and 313.*

## Post-Baccalaureate Program

The post-baccalaureate program in special education allows students who have earned a baccalaureate degree and certification in elementary or secondary education to add certification in special education. Students, who have a baccalaureate degree in a field other than education, may seek their initial teacher certification in special education by following the post-bac program of studies and completing student teaching. Students entering this program must have earned a minimum of 2.8 in their previous degree program. Admission to post-bac study is made through the Office of Admissions.

## Graduate Study

The Special Education Department offers a Master's Degree in Special Education through our Master Teacher Program. The master's program also offers initial teacher certification and certification as a Supervisor of Special Education. Admission to the graduate program is made through the Graduate Office.

## Teacher Certification

In addition to completing the required course of study in special education and elementary education, candidates for certification in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania must also complete PRAXIS I and II exams as prescribed for each major. PRAXIS I exams are to be completed following freshman year while PRAXIS II exams must be completed prior to the student teaching semester. Information on the PRAXIS series can be obtained from Career Services in Maltby Hall.

## Experience with Children

The faculty in the special education department strongly believes that teacher candidates should participate in a wide variety of formal and informal experiences with children. These experiences allow the prospective teacher to gain valuable field experience and serve to strengthen the commitment to a career in education.

- **Contact Hours**  
Prior to formal admission to the teacher certification program (after completion of 48 credit hours), student must complete a minimum of 40 contact hours with children. Contact hours must also include clock hours with special education students as well as in diverse settings.
- **Elementary Education Field Experiences**  
The field experience programs in elementary education provide students with the opportunity to study and gain teaching experience in conjunction with methods courses. University faculty supervise students in a variety of school settings. Students complete over 100 contact hours in elementary settings.
- **Special Education Service Learning Courses**  
Several special education courses include service learning components designed to assist students in transferring knowledge and skills from theory courses to the realities of the classroom. Placements are made in our after-school tutoring program at Slippery Rock Middle School, in local cyber-schools, and in local social service agencies. Students will complete at least 50 contact hours through service learning experiences.
- **Special Education Professional Semester**  
The professional semester combines four strategy courses with special education practicum. Students attend classes on-campus two to four days per week for twelve weeks and also spend a day each week in a classroom placement. During the last three weeks of the semester, students spend five days per week at their assigned schools. Students complete over 140 contact hours with students during this semester.
- **Student Teaching**  
During senior year, student teaching provides each student with a capstone activity in which they complete over 450 contact hours with students in two different school placements. In addition to approved sites in Western Pennsylvania, student teaching experiences are also available in Las Vegas, Ireland and Mexico.

Academic Programs 2004-2005



This fact sheet is intended for informational purposes only and is subject to change.