

SPECIAL EDUCATION

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION



WHAT CAN I DO WITH A SPECIAL EDUCATION DEGREE?

Because special education can encompass any academic subject or life skill, the special education major must be well-versed in a number of subjects. Each student with special needs is different and the settings in which a special educator serves are constantly changing. Typically, positions in the field of special education involve educating children with disabilities, which can range from speech and language impairments to emotional and behavioral disorders, in settings ranging from general education classrooms to specialized public and private schools. At the undergraduate level, a special education certification enables graduates to teach children who are identified as having intellectual disabilities, learning disabilities, physical disabilities or behavior disorders in school placements from pre-kindergarten through grade twelve.

SPECIAL EDUCATION AT SRU

The Special Education Department at Slippery Rock University has a rich history in the field of special education. The Department was established in the early 1960s under the leadership of Dr. Jack Dinger and has become a national influence on school districts and community programs for persons with disabilities during the past several decades. Graduates from the program have secured full-time teaching positions in the greater Pittsburgh area and across the country, including Pennsylvania, Florida, Maryland, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Utah, Virginia and many more, even internationally in Qatar and the Virgin Islands.

WHY CHOOSE SPECIAL EDUCATION AT SRU?

- 1. Field-based learning:** Special education/early childhood majors benefit from six semesters of hands-on-field experiences in western Pennsylvania public schools.
- 2. Experienced faculty:** You will be taught by full-time faculty members, not graduate assistants, who have public and private school teaching, administrative and supervisor experience.
- 3. Projects and research with faculty:** Students who receive their professional development through the department have an opportunity to learn and work closely with faculty members who have presented research and scholarly work at the state, national and international levels.
- 4. Support and guidance:** Every undergraduate is assigned an academic adviser to guide you through your program of study and to help you make decisions to achieve your educational and career goals.
- 5. Accredited by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation:** Accreditation means that our program meets or exceeds the industry standards developed by experts in the field.

MAJORS

- Early Childhood Education (PreK-4) and Special Education (PreK-12) dual certification (BSED)*
- Early Childhood Education (PreK-4) and Special Education (PreK-12) dual certification w/ a concentration in International Education (BSED)*
- Special Education (PreK-12) (BSED)
- Special Education Transition Programming (BS)

MINORS

- Special Education

Slippery Rock University (SRU) is required by the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement and US Department of Education to notify you whether our program meets the academic licensure/certification requirements in another state. All jurisdictions have their own requirements for licensure/ certification eligibility. SRU is approved to offer programs that may lead to licensure/certification in Pennsylvania. We are unable to determine our program's eligibility in states other than PA. Please review the licensing board contact resource at www.sru.edu/licensure-certification to seek guidance on the requirements of licensure in your home state or where you would like to practice professionally. Note that state requirements are subject to change at any time and without notice.

SlipperyRock
University

A member of Pennsylvania's State System
of Higher Education

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

www.sru.edu

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SRU early childhood education/special education dual major students will participate in student teaching within regional school districts while special education transition specialist program students have completed internships with various schools and organizations including:

- The Woodlands
- New Castle YMCA
- George Junior Republic
- Vocational and Psychological Services
- SRU Adapted Physical Activity Department
- The Hope Learning Center
- The ARC of Butler

CAREER OUTCOMES

While many SRU special education majors will continue their education after earning their bachelor's degree, graduates of the department have secured careers in the following areas:

- Professor of special education at Slippery Rock University
- Chairperson of Special Education Department at Slippery Rock University
- Special education teacher at Seneca Valley School District
- Director of special education at Plum Area School District

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

- Best Buddies
- Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Lindsey Foust, '16

K-4 autistic support teacher at Haine Elementary School

"SRU's Special Education Department taught me that it is the love of the job and the passion portrayed that rubs off on to the students, (resulting in) their achievements and their joy, which makes for a 'great teacher.' I could not be that 'great teacher' without the support and encouragement within SRU's Special Education Department."

Sara Sinclair, '16

Teacher at the Monarch Center for Autism

"When I think about who inspired me throughout my college career, many professors came to mind. One in particular is Dr. Bieniek. He was so engaged and invested in our learning."

Jared Stanley, '15

Special educator at John Adams Elementary School

"SRU's special education program gave me the exposure and fundamental skills I needed to feel confident and successful entering the workforce. Coming from a well-rounded program gave me the tools I needed to compete in this rigorous field and a high-demand area."

Stephani Damato, '14

Special education teacher at George Junior Republic

"In 2014, I traveled to the Pennsylvania Council of Teacher of English and Language Arts conference with my fellow English and education majors and Dr. Timothy Oldakowski. This conference truly reminded me why I got into teaching to begin with."

ACADEMIC CONTACT: FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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www.sru.edu/majors

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