About the Program

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 Pre K-8 and primary education in ages Birth - 4. This dual certification program is ideal for today’s educators who must meet the challenges of delivering services in inclusive settings.

Special Education Transition Program

A transition specialist helps families navigate the frequently murky waters of special education. As students age out of facilities, it’s not always easy to find resources to make an informed decision about the future. An expert, who not only recognizes an individual’s special needs but also his or her legal rights, is an indispensable resource to families. If helping people at a crossroads sounds like a rewarding and fulfilling career, transition programing is the major for you.

Career Opportunities

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, but to work with teams to deliver services to special pupils who are included in the general education classroom.

Minors in Special Education

The Special Education department offers minors in Special Education and in Instructional Strategies for Students with Disabilities. These minor programs focus on providing students with background information on individuals with disabilities and strategies for working with these individuals in settings inside and outside the classroom. Each program will prepare you to work with individuals with a wide range of disabilities—from learning disabilities to mental and physical impairments.
Teaching Certification
In addition to completing the required course of study in special education and early childhood education, candidates for certification in Pennsylvania must also complete the Pennsylvania Educator Certification Tests as prescribed for each major. The PECT basic skills test and the Pre-Service Academic Performance Assessment should be completed during or immediately following the freshman year. PECT content tests must be taken before student teaching and consist of three modules for early childhood and two modules for special education. Detailed information about the tests, including registration options and study materials, is at www.pa.nesinc.com. The Office of Career Education and Development in Bailey Library supervises the administration of PECT testing at SRU.

Internships
- Children and Youth Services
- Youth Development Center
- Easter Seals Inc.
- Lifesteps Inc.
- United Cerebral Palsy Foundation
- Diversified Family Services
- Department of Aging

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