# SPECIAL EDUCATION

## DEPARTMENT OF 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 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 work closely with faculty who have presented research and scholarly work at state, national, and international levels.
4. **Support and guidance:** Every undergraduate is assigned an academic advisor to guide students through their program of study and to help them make decisions to achieve their 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)***
- International Education

**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.**

Slippery Rock University®

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## INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SRU Early Childhood Education/Special Education dual majors and Special Education PK-12 stand-alone majors 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 – Slippery Rock University
- Chairperson of special education department – Slippery Rock University
- Special education teacher – Seneca Valley School District
- Director of special education – Plum Area School District
- Special education supervisor – Shenango School District
- Special education teacher – Sharpsville Elementary School
- Special education teacher – Oil City Middle School
- Training and consultation coordinator – Allegheny Intermediate Unit
- Special education teacher – Greenville School District
- Adjunct faculty – Franklin University of Ohio

## CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

- Best Buddies
- Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### Amber Winchester – SRU class of 2021, 2026

Special Education Teacher, Pressley Ridge School for the Deaf

"What made SRU my top choice was the amount of experience that you get as an undergrad. I also heard that the professors were really good, but it wasn't until I got here that I realized just how incredible the education team here is."

### Jenna Jones – SRU class of 2026

Early Childhood/Special Education Dual Major

"When I chose SRU I had always heard that it was like a family, but what they never told me was just how close the Special Education Department family is for faculty and students. If it were not for the support and guidance of my inspiring professors, I would not be able to be an inspiring teacher to my students."

### Lindsey Foust – SRU class of 2016

K-4 Autistic Support Teacher, 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."


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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**
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