

Special Education Courses

(SPECED, SPECFLD)

The expectations for graduate level Special Education enrollment is consistent with UW-Whitewater's guidelines and requires additional research, projects and a leadership role. In addition, enrollment in Special Education courses requires admission to professional education with the exception of SPECED 700 level courses.

SPECED 524

Foundations of Special Education 3 u

The purpose of this course is to help students explore issues and perspectives related to basic theories in special education. The course also examines the legal and ethical implications surrounding special education, and the historical developments within the field. This course will provide teacher education students with experiences that engage them in explicitly examining their conceptions, assumptions, and attitudes related to students with exceptional educational needs. Extensive consideration will be devoted to misconceptions about multicultural and bilingual aspects of special education as well as pedagogical approaches for including students with diverse learning styles and abilities in general education environments.

Prereq: SPECED 205.

SPECED 560

Behavior Management for the Inclusive Classroom 3 u

The purpose of this course is to provide general strategies to promote effective behavior management in the inclusive educational environment. Focus will be on theories and practices for facilitating successful integration of children with disabilities in the regular education classroom or public school special education programs.

Prereq: Admission to Professional Education

SPECED 576

Medical Aspects Of Disability 3 u

Study of the medical, physiological, neurological, physical, developmental, and sensory characteristics of persons with physical or medical conditions which impact educational programming. Emphasis on the etiology and implications of genetic, prenatal and acquired causes of disabilities including cerebral palsy, genetic syndromes, medical fragility, technology dependency, AIDS, and prenatal drug exposure. Interdisciplinary approaches to services provided for persons with complex attendance needs are addressed.

Prereq: Admission to Profession Education

SPECED 580

Phase 3 Portfolio 2 u

This course assists teacher candidates to develop their phase 3 portfolio which includes a philosophical statement which addresses DPI's core values; three narratives in the areas of assessment, instruction, and communication and collaboration; and three to nine student-selected artifacts selected from course projects or related artifacts across the college and Department of Special Education, prior to their entrance into the Directed Teaching Block that provide evidence of the attainment of knowledge and skills related to WTS and CEC/NCATE standards.

Prereq: Admission to Professional Education

Coreq: SPECFLD 485/685, SPECED 440/640, SPECED 450/650 or SPECED 465/665.

SPECED 606

Career/Vocational Programming For Exceptional Educational Needs 3 u

Identification of specific strategies for overcoming attitudinal and technical barriers to vocational mainstreaming of special needs students. Content includes values clarification, vocational assessment, vocational IEP development, and elementary and secondary vocational models in delivering appropriate vocational services to EEN students. Content covers grades K-12.

Prereq: Admission to Professional Education

SPECED 609

Nonviolent Crisis Intervention 1 u

This course provides participants with certification or recertification in Nonviolent Crisis Intervention as recognized by the Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI). Techniques for de-escalating potentially harmful situations as well as strategies for responding to direct physical threats will be presented. The instructor is certified by CPI to provide training. Participants passing the exit exam will receive a one-year certificate in non-violent crisis intervention. Participants are asked to wear comfortable clothing suitable for physical activity and avoid wearing jewelry during the course. Students must purchase a workbook from the instructor the first day of class to participate. Students registering for this course that are not currently licensed teachers or enrolled in a teacher education program must complete an Admission to Professional Education for Non-Licensure form to enroll in this course.

SPECED 626

Introduction To Individual Diagnostic Assessment Of Exceptional Educational Needs 3 u

A core course providing an overview of educational assessment and diagnosis of those with disabilities. Emphasis is placed upon testing for IEP development, the teaching and implications of the educational evaluation for multi-disciplinary team decision making.

Prereq: Restricted to students with Professional Ed admission.

SPECED 640

Advanced Behavior Management 3 u

The purpose of this course is to provide special educators with the knowledge and skills to intervene with children with intense patterns of behavior that prevent the student from accessing the general education classroom. Techniques for conducting functional behavior assessments and designing behavior intervention plans will be provided. In addition, legal aspects regarding behavior intervention will be provided.

Prereq: Admission to Professional Education.

SPECED 650

Intervention for Children with EBD 3 u

The purpose of this course is to provide special educators with the knowledge and skills to intervene with children with intense patterns of behavior that prevent the student from accessing the general education classroom. Techniques for conducting functional behavior assessments and designing behavior intervention plans will be provided. In addition, legal aspects regarding behavior intervention will be provided.

Prereq: Admission to Professional Education

SPECED 658

Collaboration For Effective Instruction 3 u

This course develops student's skills and understanding of the laws pertaining to students with disabilities, writing individualized instructional plans, inclusion, collaboration and school-based team membership, and adaptation and modifications of instruction. Students also develop their personal philosophy of education including beliefs about teachers, students, diversity, community, inclusion, etc. and a profile of their role as a team member through the use of a variety of self-assessment tools and the use of a cooperative learning structure (base teams) for the course.

Prereq: Admission to Professional Education.

SPECED 661

Formal Assessment of Young Children 3 u

Provides the students with knowledge of legal and ethical considerations of assessing young children. Students acquire skills in screening, conducting norm-referenced assessments, writing reports, and communicating with parents and professionals. Graduate students will complete projects in addition to those required for those taking the class at the undergraduate level.

Prereq: Restricted to post-baccalaureate students with Professional Education admission.

SPECED 662

Educational Diagnosis And Assessment In LD, E/BD, CD 3 u

A course to develop advanced diagnostic skills for elementary through secondary students with mild/moderate disabilities (LD, ED, CD). Particular emphasis is placed upon the assessment of cognitive, academic, developmental and behavioral skills that affect classroom performance. The application of advanced trend analysis and data synthesis techniques for special education placement and program planning is stressed and current issues and trends are discussed.

Prereq: Admission to Professional Education.

SPECED 665

Curriculum/Methods Cognitive Disabilities - Functional 3 u

For persons who will be working with individuals who have moderate and/or severe disabilities. Provides methods, strategies and techniques in assessment, curriculum development, program design, instructional strategies, material development, and community transition for the population with moderate disabilities. A major focus will be on all aspects of functional programs across home, school, community and vocational environments.

Prereq: Admission to Professional Education.

SPECED 676

Curriculum, Methods And Materials For Those With Multiple Disabilities 3 u

For the individual who is interested in acquiring specialized techniques and strategies in the care, instruction, programming, and management of the person with physical, motor, medical, cognitive, communicative and/or behavioral disabilities. Specific information on positioning, physical handling, feeding facilitation, augmentative communication, sensory integration, adaptive switches, medication therapy and life skills development for the person with severe and profound disabilities. Emphasis is on functional skills.

Prereq: Admission to Professional Education.

SPECED 680

Phase 4 Portfolio 2 u

This course assists teacher candidates to develop their phase 4 portfolio which includes a philosophical statement which addresses DPI's core values; three narratives in the areas of assessment, instruction, and communication and collaboration; and three to nine student-selected artifacts selected from field-based experiences with children (special education fieldwork, general education fieldwork, and student teaching) that provide evidence of the attainment of knowledge and skills related to WTS and CEC/NCATE standards. At the end of the seminar, teacher candidates will present the portfolio to an interdisciplinary group of UW-W faculty and staff.

Prereq: Pass Praxis II, have no incomplete grades or grades lower than C in SPECED or SPECFLD courses; 2.75 GPA and Consent of Department.

Coreq: SPECFLD 789A Practicum: Cognitive Disability, 789B Practicum: Learning Disability, 789C Practicum: Emotional/Behavioral Disorders, 789D Practicum: Cross Categorical, 789F Practicum In Early Childhood Special Education Three Through Eight, or 789G Practicum In Early Childhood Special Education Birth to Three; or SPECFLD 793A Inservice Practicum: Cognitive Disability, 793B Inservice Practicum: Learning Disability, 793C Inservice Practicum: Emotional/Behavioral Disorders, 793D Inservice Practicum: Cross Categorical, 793F Inservice Practicum In Early Childhood Special Education 3-88, or 793G Inservice Practicum In Early Childhood Special Education Birth To Three.

SPECED 686

Academic Intervention I 3 u

The course is about reading for students with problems and disabilities through the use of theories, models, and specific research-based programs in phonemic awareness, decoding, reading and comprehension. We will examine the processes and skills children and adolescents engage in to read and understand literature and content within the curriculum. Specifically the difficulties encountered by students with language and learning differences will be reviewed and research providing "best practices" in teaching phonemic awareness, reading, decoding, and comprehension as a tool for literacy development will be emphasized. Students will develop personal philosophies and review and implement instructional strategies for teaching the development and fluency aspects of phonemic awareness, reading, decoding, and comprehension within the special and regular curriculum.

Prereq: Admission to Professional Education.

SPECED 687

Academic Intervention II 3 u

The course is about writers and writing. We will examine the processes and skills children and adolescents engage in to compose a quality written product. Specifically the difficulties encountered by students with language and learning differences will be reviewed and research providing “best practices” in teaching writing as a tool for literacy development will be emphasized. Students will develop personal philosophies and instructional strategies for teaching the development and fluency aspects of composition.

Prereq: Admission to Professional Education.

Coreq: SPECFLD 410/610, SPECED 486/686 & SPECED 458/658.

SPECED 690

Workshop 1-10 u

SPECED 691

Travel Study 1-3 u

SPECED 694

Seminar 1-3 u

SPECED 696

Special Studies 1-4 u

Prereq: Consent of instructor.

SPECED 700

Theoretical Foundations of Contemporary Practices in Special Education 3 u

The purpose of this course is to provide an in-depth graduate level theoretical foundation of the field of special education. Historical trends and current issues in the field of special education will be explored with an emphasis upon the impact these issues have on current practice. Current special education law and its interaction with practice will also be explored.

SPECED 701

Advanced Methodology and Practices in Special Education 3 u

This course provides the certified special educator with an advanced curriculum and instruction knowledge base in the field. Emphasis will be placed upon research-based practices designed to enhance instruction. Students will explore methodology specific to their area of practice. Knowledge and skills necessary for application as a Nationally Board Certified Special Educator will also be presented.

SPECED 702 (CIGENRL 702)

Reflective Practice And Action Research 3 u

The course assists teachers in planning, organizing, implementing, and assessing inquiry-related strategies appropriate for their classrooms. Participants will investigate current issues by way of Action Research, ethnographic, symbolic interaction, and qualitative inquiry techniques. Projects will be conducted that relate to individual classroom needs and situations.

Prereq: Graduate standing.

SPECED 703

Promoting Reform through Collaborative Leadership 3 u

This course will examine school reform and collaborative leadership from a Special Education perspective. Specifically, the course will provide students with strategic skills to promote collaborative problem-solving approaches to the development of policy and practice that will promote the development of learning communities and the revitalization of the quality of learning for all children. Students will participate in practical activities that will enhance their ability to assume informal and formal leadership roles within and across professions impacting Special Education.

SPECED 704

Applied Field Action Research in Special Education 3 u

Under the mentorship of the faculty advisor, the student will reflect and implement an Action Research proposal at the classroom, school and / or district level. The synthesis and summary of the findings will be disseminated via multiple formats, e.g. poster sessions, conference presentations, journal articles and the sharing of information at professional gatherings. The Action Research study will be a tool for producing artifacts that can be integrated into appropriate professional portfolios to enhance professional development, career mobility or qualification for NBPTS certification.

Prereq: SPECED 700, SPECED 701, SPECED 702, EDFOUND 740 or consent of department chairman.

SPECED 705

Professional Portfolio Development in Special Education 3 u

This course will prepare practicing teachers to develop professional portfolios. Students can select from three types of portfolios—a Professional Development Portfolio, a Showcase Portfolio, or a portfolio that can be used as part of an application for National Board Certification. The Professional Development Portfolio will assist teachers in meeting the requirements for continuing licensure. A Showcase Portfolio will assist teachers who wish to move into another professional position. The National Board Portfolio is one of the major requirements in achieving National Board Certification. Students will acquire skills in developing and refining artifacts suitable for each type of portfolio.

They will learn how to write reflective commentaries, to self-assess their work according to external standards, to acquire skills (e.g. videotaping lessons; developing web pages) that will assist them in producing high quality artifacts representing their best work. Students may take this class up to two times to complete their portfolio.

Prereq: Students seeking the MSE in Special Education, will be expected to have completed the general core, the specialty core, and the professional development core classes. Others may be admitted with the consent of the instructor.

SPECED 706

Vocational Assessment Of Students With Special Needs 3 u

This course examines specific vocational assessment strategies using an ecological approach to in-school data collection. Assessment of occupational interests, aptitude, and learning styles in relationship to IEP development, placement within specific occupational clusters, and successful transition to post-secondary training and/or employment environments is presented.

SPECED 707

Foundations of Autism Spectrum Disorder 3 u

The purpose of this course is to provide an in-depth graduate level introduction to the foundations of autism spectrum disorder. This course includes an overview of autism spectrum disorder, including discussion of diagnostic issues, philosophical issues, research on the biological and psychosocial bases of the disorders, as well as an overview of intervention techniques and legal issues. The basic principles of behavioral analysis are covered.

Prereq: SPECED 205 or permission from the instructor

SPECED 708

Methods for Teaching Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders 3 u

This course provides students with methods of instructing children with autism spectrum disorders. The focus will be on developing functional skills based upon individual children's needs. Methods of instruction will include applied behavior analysis, sensory integration, TEACCH, and functional and ecological assessment procedures.

Prereq: (SPECED 205 AND SPECED 407/607) or permission from the instructor.

SPECED 760

Foundations and Characteristics of CD/EBD/LD 3 u

This course addresses the characteristics of students with cognitive disabilities, learning disabilities, and emotional/behavioral disabilities. The purpose of this course is to provide an overview of the theoretical and historical issues related to three high incidence disabilities. Specific application of theory and history will be applied to all three areas looking at characteristics across the life span. Inter-relationships of the characteristics, needs and implication for practice will be explored. Eligibility and models of service delivery will also be examined. Students who are not currently teaching will have to fulfill independent field experience expectations.

Prereq: SPECED 556 or SPECED 564 or SPECED 606 or Consent of instructor.

SPECED 761

Instructional Strategies for the Inclusive Classroom 3 u

This course is designed to help prospective education teachers learn to work effectively with students with mild disabilities. Instructional principles and strategies to provide quality instruction to help students become successful learners will be emphasized. Content emphasis includes models of instruction, and methods for delivery of instruction including lesson planning and unit planning. Students who are not currently teaching will have to fulfill independent field experience expectations.

SPECED 766

Professional Collaborations: Families and Community Agencies 3 u

The purpose of this course is to provide students with theory, general principles, and procedures for fostering collaborative partnerships among families, professionals, students, and other stakeholders that lead to outcomes of individual and mutual empowerment. Students will gain knowledge of interpersonal and collaborative skills that support partnerships between parents and school/ community professionals, as well as between school professionals and other community service providers. Information concerning

national, state, and local resources for families of children with disabilities will be provided and integrated into class activities. Students who are not currently teaching will have to fulfill independent field experience expectations.

SPECED 781

School-to-Work Transitional Programming 3 u

This course will examine direct and indirect instructional support strategies which facilitate successful vocational programming of individuals with exceptional educational needs within secondary and post-secondary environments. The Designated Vocational Instructor model and transition methods are emphasized.

SPECED 785

Current Topics in Special Education Pre-Institute 1 u

The Pre-Institute is designed with the practical needs of educators in mind and will provide participants a comprehensive examination of current literature and practices within their school districts related to the current topic designated in the course SPECED 483/683 Current Topics in Special Education: Institute. These topics will change on an annual basis and be determined by department faculty in consultation with a graduate advisory committee comprised of teachers, administrators, and alumni. Specifically, the Pre-Institute will focus on the identification of key elements needed to create a framework for strategic planning to improve programming practices within schools related to the Institute topic.

Coreq: SPECED 483/683.

SPECED 786

Current Topics in Special Education Institute 1 u

The Institute is designed with the practical needs of educators in mind and will provide participants a comprehensive examination of current literature and practices related to critical issues facing the field of special education. Topics are selected on the basis of need, interest, or timeliness and will change each time the course is offered. Institutes will be offered in the summer session and conducted by international and national leaders with expertise on the topic. SPECED 482/682 Current Topics in Special Education: Pre-Institute (1 credit) and SPECED 484/684 Current Topics in Special Education: Post-Institute (1 credit) can be taken prior to and following each summer institute and provide a more in-depth examination of the topic.

SPECED 787

Current Topics in Special Education Post-Institute 1 u

The Post-Institute is designed with the practical needs of educators in mind and will provide participants a comprehensive examination of current literature and practices within their school districts related to the current topic designated in the course SPECED 483/683 Current Topics in Special Education: Institute. These topics will change on an annual basis and be determined by department faculty in consultation with a graduate advisory committee comprised of teachers, administrators, and alumni. Specifically, the Post-Institute will focus on the identification of key elements needed to create a framework for strategic planning to improve programming practices within schools related to the Institute topic.

Coreq: SPECED 483/683.

SPECED 790

Workshop 1-6 u

SPECED 794

Seminar 1-3 u

SPECED 796

Special Studies 1-3 u

SPECED 798

Individual Studies 1-3 u

SPECED 799

Thesis Research 1-6 u

Students must complete a Thesis Proposal Form in the Graduate Studies Office before registering for this course.

Prereq: Consent of instructor.

FIELD (SPECFLD

SPECFLD 585

Cross Categorical Field Work 2 u

This field experience provides all students with the opportunity to observe and participate with classrooms for children with cross-categorical educational needs with cognitive delays, emotional/behavioral disorders and learning disabilities.

Prereq: Admission to Professional Education.

Coreq: SPECED 360/560, SPECED 361/561, SPECED 426/626

SPECFLD 610

General Education Field Work 3 u

Students seeking licensure in Special Education will complete a 150 hour assignment in a general education classroom where inclusionary practices for individuals with special needs are applied. The field experience provides opportunities to become familiar with the range of students' abilities, curricular focus, achievement expectations, enhancements, adaptations, and modifications of instruction and collaborative practices of general and special educators.

Prereq: Admission to Professional Education.

SPECFLD 670

Student Teaching Seminar 2 u

The seminar provides a meaningful capstone experience for student teachers during their professional teaching semester. Current research, issues, and strategies specific to the field of special education and the teaching professional are presented.

Prereq: Admission to Professional Education

SPECFLD 685 A

Specialization Field Work-Cognitive Delays 2 u

This field experience provides all students with the opportunity to observe and participate with classrooms for children within the specialization of cognitive delays.

Prereq: Admission to Professional Education.

SPECFLD 685 B

Specialization Field Work-Emotional Behavioral Disorders 1 u

This field experience provides all students with the opportunity to observe and participate with classrooms for children within the specialization of emotional/behavioral disorders.

Prereq: Admission to Professional Education.

SPECFLD 685 C

Specialization Field Work-Learning Disorders 1 u

This field experience provides all students with the opportunity to observe and participate with classrooms for children within the specialization of learning disorders.

Prereq: Admission to Professional Education.

Co-req: SPECED 670 Seminar and SPECED 680 Phase 4 Portfolio.

SPECFLD 685 G

Field-Study Infants/Toddlers with Disabilities 1 u

In this field study, students practice written and oral reflection about early intervening services and accommodate their beliefs and knowledge of theory to the daily experiences of families living and raising infants and toddlers with disabilities in natural environments. Students share their reflections during weekly on-line discussions with the instructor.

Prereq: Admission to Professional Education.

SPECFLD 789 A

Practicum: Cognitive Disability 1-6 u

Prereq: Pass Praxis II, Have no incomplete grades or grades lower than C in SPECED or SPECFLD courses; 2.75GPA and consent of department

Co-req: SPECED 680.

SPECFLD 789 B

Practicum: Learning Disability 1-6 u

Prereq: Pass Praxis II, Have no incomplete grades or grades lower than C in SPECED or SPECFLD courses; 2.75GPA and consent of department

Co-req: SPECED 680.

SPECFLD 789 C

Practicum: Emotional Behavioral Disorders 1-6 u

Prereq: Pass Praxis II, Have no incomplete grades or grades lower than C in SPECED or SPECFLD courses; 2.75GPA and consent of department

Co-req: SPECED 680.

SPECFLD 789 D

Practicum: Cross Categorical 1-6 u

Prereq: Pass Praxis II, Have no incomplete grades or grades lower than C in SPECED or SPECFLD courses; 2.75GPA and consent of department

Co-req: SPECED 680.

SPECFLD 789 F

Practicum: Early Childhood Special Education Birth through Eight 1 u

Graduate level, professional experience with young children with disabilities (five through eight) in student's own place of employment; under the guidance of carefully selected, qualified on-site supervisors. Site must be approved by ECSE faculty.

Prereq: Pass Praxis II, Have no incomplete grades or grades lower than C in SPECED or SPECFLD courses; 2.75GPA and consent of department

Co-req: SPECED 680.

SPECFLD 789 G

Practicum: Early Childhood Special Education Birth to Three 1-6 u

Prereq: Pass Praxis II, Have no incomplete grades or grades lower than C in SPECED or SPECFLD courses; 2.75GPA and consent of department

Co-req: SPECED 680.

SPECFLD 793 A

Inservice Practicum: Cognitive Disability 1-6 u

Prereq: Pass Praxis II, Have no incomplete grades or grades lower than C in SPECED or SPECFLD courses; 2.75GPA and consent of department

Co-req: SPECED 680

SPECFLD 793 B

Inservice Practicum: Learning Disability 1-6 u

Prereq: Pass Praxis II, Have no incomplete grades or grades lower than C in SPECED or SPECFLD courses; 2.75GPA and consent of department

Co-req: SPECED 680

SPECFLD 793 C

Inservice Practicum: Emotional Behavioral Disorders 1-6 u

Prereq: Pass Praxis II, Have no incomplete grades or grades lower than C in SPECED or SPECFLD courses; 2.75GPA and consent of department

Co-req: SPECED 680

SPECFLD 793 D

Inservice Practicum: Cross Categorical 1-6 u

Prereq: Pass Praxis II, Have no incomplete grades or grades lower than C in SPECED or SPECFLD courses; 2.75GPA and consent of department

Co-req: SPECED 680

SPECFLD 793 F

Inservice Practicum: Early Childhood Special Education 1-6 u

Graduate level, professional experience with young children with disabilities (five through eight) in student's own place of employment; under the guidance of carefully selected, qualified on-site supervisors. Site must be approved by ECSE faculty.

Prereq: Pass Praxis II, Have no incomplete grades or grades lower than C in SPECED or SPECFLD courses; 2.75GPA and consent of department

Co-req: SPECED 680.

SPECFLD 793 G

Inservice Practicum: Early Childhood Special Education Birth to Three 1-6 u

Graduate level, professional experience with young children with disabilities (birth to age three) in student's own place of employment; under the guidance of carefully selected, qualified on-site supervisors. Site must be approved by ECSE faculty.

Prereq: Pass Praxis II, Have no incomplete grades or grades lower than C in SPECED or SPECFLD courses; 2.75GPA and consent of department

Co-req: SPECED 680