

Special Education

(College of Education)

www.uni.edu/coe/specialed

The Department of Special Education offers the following programs:

Minors

- Early Childhood Special Education-Teaching (p. 1)
- Special Education-Teaching (p. 1)
 - Instructional Strategist (p. 1) (declared Summer 2014 or after)

Graduate Major (M.A.E.)

- Special Education (p. 2)

Program Certificates

- Advanced Studies Certificate in Director of Special Education (p. 3)
- Advanced Studies Certificate in (p. 3)Special Education Instructional Coaching (p. 3)
- Inclusive Education (p. 3) (graduate certificate) (p. 3)
- Strategist I Mild/Moderate K-8 (graduate certificate) (p. 4)
- Strategist I Mild/Moderate 5-12 (graduate certificate) (p. 4)
- Strategist II Behavioral Disorder/Learning Disability K-12 (graduate certificate) (p. 4)
- Strategist II Intellectual Disability K-12 (graduate certificate) (p. 5)

Undergraduate Programs

Minors

Early Childhood Special Education Minor-Teaching

This minor leads to Endorsement 262: PreK-K Early Childhood Special Education. Students must complete all requirements for an Early Childhood Education major and complete student teaching EDUC 4135 in both the major and the Early Childhood Special Education minor endorsement area.

Required

SPIE 3150	Meeting the Needs of Diverse Learners in Classrooms	3
EDPSYCH 3109/5109	Development and Assessment of Young Children	3
ELEMECML 3149	Child, Family, School and Community Relationships	3
SPIE 4148/5148	Assessment of Young Children and Families with Exceptionalities	3
SPIE 4193/5193	Experience in Special & Inclusive Educ: ECSE Age 3-6 years	3

SPIE 4141/5141	Including Young Children with Special Needs Into General Education Classrooms *	3
Professional Experiences:		
EDUC 2301	Teaching Methods I: Infant/Toddler Curriculum and Early Intervention *	3
EDUC 2401	Teaching Internship I: Infants/Toddlers	3
Total Hours		24

* Students enrolled in EDUC 2301 and SPIE 4141/5141 are required to have not lower than a C in each of these methods courses that are prerequisites for Student Teaching in Special Education.

Special Education Minor-Teaching Instructional Strategist Minor

This minor leads to an endorsement in teaching students with disabilities with three different options: 1) Instructional Strategist I K-8 (Endorsement 260); 2) Instructional Strategist I 5-12 (Endorsement 261); or 3) Instructional Strategist II Intellectual Disabilities K-12 (Endorsement 264). Students must complete all requirements for an Early Childhood, Elementary, or Secondary Education major and complete student teaching (EDUC 4135) in both the major and the Instructional Strategist special education minor endorsement area.

Required Special Education Core for All

Endorsement Options:

SPIE 3150	Meeting the Needs of Diverse Learners in Classrooms	3
SPIE 4150/5150	Introduction to Special Education: Legal, Advocacy, and Assistive Technology Practices and Issues	3
SPIE 4151/5151	Educational and Post-School Transition Programming for Individuals with Disabilities	3
SPIE 4161/5161	Constructions of Behavior and Humanistic Supports **	3
SPIE 4162/5162	Specialized Assessment and Instruction for Students with Disabilities **	3
SPIE 4163/5163	Field Experience in Specialized Assessment, Instruction and Management in Special Education (K-8)	3
SPIE 4171/5171	Creating and Sustaining Positive Inclusive Learning Environments (K-12) **	3

Choose from the following endorsement options: 6

Instructional Strategist I K-8 (Special Education Core plus the following courses):

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SPIE 4172/5172	Differentiated & Intensive Methods in Literacy & Mathematics: Elementary Mild/Mod Disabilities (K-8) **
SPIE 4194/5194	Experience in Special & Inclusive Educ: Prac 2, Instructional Strategist I K-8
Instructional Strategist I 5-12 (Special Education Core plus the following courses):	
SPIE 4173/5173	Instructional Methods for Inclusive Learning (5-12) **
SPIE 4195/5195	Experience in Special & Inclusive Educ: Prac 2, Instructional Strategist I 5-12
Instructional Strategist II K-12 (Special Education Core plus the following courses):	
SPIE 4173/5173	Instructional Methods for Inclusive Learning (5-12) **
SPIE 4196/5196	Experience in Special & Inclusive Ed: Prac 2, Instr Strategist II Intellectual Disability K-12
Total Hours	27

* And Student Teaching EDUC 4135 (4-12 hours) in specific endorsement area.

**Students enrolled in SPIE 4161/5161, SPIE 4162/5162, SPIE 4171/5171, SPIE 4172/5172, and SPIE 4173/5173 are required to have not lower than a C in each of these methods courses that are prerequisites for Student Teaching in Special Education.

Master of Arts in Education Degree Programs

Major in Special Education

This major is designed to prepare special education professionals for leadership positions and for advanced professional studies. For students pursuing the Special Education Consultant emphasis, to be eligible for Endorsement 250 *Special Education Consultant*, the student must have four years of successful teaching experience, two of which must be congruent with the desired Special Education Consultant endorsement.

Students interested in this program must submit a completed Application for Admission to Graduate Study and should refer to their MyUNIverse Student Center To-Do list or contact the Department of Special Education for other application requirements. Graduate information and application for graduate admission can be found at <https://admissions.uni.edu/application>.

The Graduate Record Examination (General Test) is **not** required for admission to the program.

Only graduate courses (course numbers 5000 or above) will apply to a graduate degree, even if the undergraduate course number (4999 or less) is listed. No exceptions will be made.

This major is available on the **thesis** and **non-thesis** option. A **minimum of 30 semester hours is required for the non-thesis option and a minimum of 33 hours is required for the thesis**

option. A minimum of 18 hours of 6000-level course work is required for both thesis and non-thesis options.

Students on the **thesis** option must complete 6 hours of SPIE 6299 Research and present a defense of the thesis. Students on the **non-thesis** option must complete 3 hours of SPIE 6299 ending with a culminating research paper, and successfully complete a final written comprehensive examination.

Required professional core

Educational Psychology:		
EDPSYCH 6214	Foundations of Instructional Psychology	3
Measurement and Research:		
MEASRES 6205	Educational Research	3
Required special education		
SPIE 6260	Special Education Law and Policy	3
Special Education:		
SPIE 6289	Seminar	3
	or SPIE 4180/5180 Interdisciplinary Study of Disability	
Research:		3 or 6
SPIE 6299	Research	
Thesis Option (6 hours)		
Non-thesis Option (3 hours)		
Emphasis in special education (choose one from below)		15
Total hours (non-thesis option)		30
Total hours (thesis option)		33

Instructional Emphasis

Required		
Special Education:		
SPIE 6293	Qualitative Research in Special and Inclusive Education	3
SPIE 6295	Single-Subject Research Applications	3
Approved electives		9
Total Hours		15

Special Education Consultant Emphasis

Required		
Special Education:		
SPIE 6293	Qualitative Research in Special and Inclusive Education	3
SPIE 6240	Collaborative Consultation I: The Relationship	3
SPIE 6245	Collaborative Consultation II: The Process	3
SPIE 6290	Practicum	3
Approved electives		3
Total Hours		15

Program Certificates

The University of Northern Iowa makes available, in addition to traditional programs, the opportunity for students to earn program certificates. Program certificates provide an alternative to programs leading to a degree, a major, or a minor; they certify that an individual has completed a program approved by the university. For information on the following program certificates, contact the Department of Special Education or the Office of the Registrar, which serves as the centralized registry.

Advanced Studies Certificate in Director of Special Education

Designed for those with a master’s degree, seeking an endorsement to serve as an AEA Director. Program coursework would also be appropriate for individuals interested in serving in leadership positions for PK-12 special education at the district, AEA, or state levels. Advance your skills in educational policy, facility planning, human resources, theories, and philosophies as they relate to special education. This endorsement fulfills the requirements for Iowa Endorsement #239.

SPIE 6278	Administration of Special Education	3
SPIE 6260	Special Education Law and Policy	3
EDLEAD 7310	Human Resource Administration	3
EDLEAD 7311	Educational Leadership and Systems Change	3
EDLEAD 7340	Funding the Educational Program for Improved Student Achievement	3
EDLEAD 7346	School Business Management	3
SPIE 6289	Seminar	3
SPIE 6290	Practicum	3
Total Hours		24

Advanced Studies Certificate in Special Education Instructional Coaching

Applicants for the Special Education Instructional Coaching Certificate must hold a master’s degree in special education or complete 30 semester hours of college coursework in the special education content area. The applicant must have four years of successful teaching experience, two of which must be in special education.

The purpose of this certificate program is to improve outcomes for students with disabilities by recruiting and preparing highly-qualified special education graduates to serve as special education instructional coaches in Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and Area Education Agencies (LEAs) across Iowa. The coaches will be prepared to provide on-site, personalized professional development to PK-12 general and special educators to enhance the implementation of evidence-based practices with high-need students with disabilities. The certificate program utilizes a distance education format [Adobe Connect with E-Learning Blackboard and on-line learning] to allow greater access to scholars across the state who are working professionals, people with child care considerations, and people living in geographically isolated areas. The distance education approach

will assist in expanding the reach of the certification program and promoting diversity of the special education workforce. This *Special Education Instructional Coaching* certificate program will be directed from within the Department of Special Education’s pre-existing Master of Arts in Education (MAE) – Consultation Emphasis Program.

The certificate program addresses state-wide critical needs for special education instructional coaches to assist teachers in the implementation of evidence-based practices for students with disabilities. Scholars will exit the program with a special education coaching certificate. Special education graduate students will be prepared with the necessary competencies to be highly effective special education instructional coaches and consultants using evidence-based pedagogical practices that result in improvements in learning and developmental outcomes (e.g., academic, social, emotional, behavioral) and successful transition to postsecondary education and the workforce. Concurrent field-based practica will provide authentic opportunities for the students to apply competencies, resulting in specified performance tasks and portfolio products. For the practicum course, each student will be assigned a mentor from the LEA or AEA who is currently serving as an instructional coach or special education teacher.

The required coursework and practica include:

SPIE 6240	Collaborative Consultation I: The Relationship	3
SPIE 6245	Collaborative Consultation II: The Process	3
SPIE 6260	Special Education Law and Policy	3
SPIE 6289	Seminar	3
SPIE 6290	Practicum	3
Total Hours		15

Inclusive Education Certificate (graduate certificate)

The Inclusive Education certificate is a thirteen (13) credit hour program designed to provide practicing educators the knowledge, skills, and dispositions needed to design and implement inclusive education in Pre K-12 schools.

SPIE 6260	Special Education Law and Policy	3
SPIE 4150/5150	Introduction to Special Education: Legal, Advocacy, and Assistive Technology Practices and Issues	3
SPIE 4151/5151	Educational and Post-School Transition Programming for Individuals with Disabilities	3
SPIE 4171/5171	Creating and Sustaining Positive Inclusive Learning Environments (K-12) (Note: Prerequisites will be waived for the Inclusive Education Certificate)	3

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SPIE 4191/5191	Experience in Special & Inclusive Education: Birth - 3 Years	1
Total Hours		13

Strategist I Mild/Moderate K-8 Certificate (graduate certificate)

The Strategist 1 Graduate Certificate invites licensed and practicing teachers to complete the endorsement program (ED 260) in Strategist 1: Mild/Moderate Disabilities at the graduate level. This Graduate Certificate and endorsement pathway serves students in Grades K-8. This certificate may be stacked into the MAE in Transformative Education.

Required:

SPIE 4150/5150	Introduction to Special Education: Legal, Advocacy, and Assistive Technology Practices and Issues	3
SPIE 4151/5151	Educational and Post-School Transition Programming for Individuals with Disabilities	3
SPIE 4161/5161	Constructions of Behavior and Humanistic Supports	3
SPIE 4162/5162	Specialized Assessment and Instruction for Students with Disabilities	3
SPIE 4163/5163	Field Experience in Specialized Assessment, Instruction and Management in Special Education (K-8)	3
SPIE 4171/5171	Creating and Sustaining Positive Inclusive Learning Environments (K-12)	3
or SPIE 6171	Creating, Sustaining, and Evaluating Inclusive Learning Environments (K-12)	
SPIE 4172/5172	Differentiated & Intensive Methods in Literacy & Mathematics: Elementary Mild/Mod Disabilities (K-8)	3
SPIE 4194/5194	Experience in Special & Inclusive Educ: Prac 2, Instructional Strategist I K-8	3
Total Hours		24

Strategist I Mild/Moderate 5-12 Certificate (graduate certificate)

The Strategist 1 Graduate Certificate invites licensed and practicing teachers to complete the endorsement program (ED 261) in Strategist 1: Mild/Moderate Disabilities at the graduate level. This Graduate Certificate and endorsement pathway serves students in Grades 5-12. This certificate may be stacked into the MAE in Transformative Education.

Required:

SPIE 4150/5150	Introduction to Special Education: Legal, Advocacy, and Assistive Technology Practices and Issues	3
SPIE 4151/5151	Educational and Post-School Transition Programming for Individuals with Disabilities	3
SPIE 4161/5161	Constructions of Behavior and Humanistic Supports	3
SPIE 4162/5162	Specialized Assessment and Instruction for Students with Disabilities	3
SPIE 4163/5163	Field Experience in Specialized Assessment, Instruction and Management in Special Education (K-8)	3
SPIE 4171/5171	Creating and Sustaining Positive Inclusive Learning Environments (K-12)	3
or SPIE 6171	Creating, Sustaining, and Evaluating Inclusive Learning Environments (K-12)	
SPIE 4173/5173	Instructional Methods for Inclusive Learning (5-12)	3
SPIE 4195/5195	Experience in Special & Inclusive Educ: Prac 2, Instructional Strategist I 5-12	3
Total Hours		24

Strategist II Behavioral Disorder/Learning Disability K-12 Certificate (graduate certificate)

The Strategist 2 Graduate Certificate invites licensed and practicing teachers to complete the endorsement program (ED 263) in Strategist 2: Behavioral Disorders and Learning Disabilities at the graduate level. This Graduate Certificate and endorsement pathway serves students in Grades K-12. This certificate may be stacked into the MAE in Transformative Education.

Required:

SPIE 4150/5150	Introduction to Special Education: Legal, Advocacy, and Assistive Technology Practices and Issues	3
SPIE 4151/5151	Educational and Post-School Transition Programming for Individuals with Disabilities	3
SPIE 4161/5161	Constructions of Behavior and Humanistic Supports	3
SPIE 4162/5162	Specialized Assessment and Instruction for Students with Disabilities	3
SPIE 4163/5163	Field Experience in Specialized Assessment, Instruction and Management in Special Education (K-8)	3

SPIE 4171/5171	Creating and Sustaining Positive Inclusive Learning Environments (K-12)	3
or SPIE 6171	Creating, Sustaining, and Evaluating Inclusive Learning Environments (K-12)	
SPIE 4174/5174	Methods and Strategies for Students with Social-Emotional Behavioral and Learning Needs (K-12)	3
SPIE 4197/5197	Exp in Special & Inclusive Ed: Prac 2, Instr Strat II Behavior Disorders/Learning Disabilities K-12	3
Total Hours		24

Strategist II Intellectual Disability K-12 Certificate (graduate certificate)

The Strategist 2 Graduate Certificate invites licensed and practicing teachers to complete the endorsement program (ED 264) in Strategist 2: Intellectual Disabilities at the graduate level. This Graduate Certificate and endorsement pathway serves students in Grades K-12. This certificate may be stacked into the MAE in Transformative Education.

Required:

SPIE 4150/5150	Introduction to Special Education: Legal, Advocacy, and Assistive Technology Practices and Issues	3
SPIE 4151/5151	Educational and Post-School Transition Programming for Individuals with Disabilities	3
SPIE 4161/5161	Constructions of Behavior and Humanistic Supports	3
SPIE 4162/5162	Specialized Assessment and Instruction for Students with Disabilities	3
SPIE 4163/5163	Field Experience in Specialized Assessment, Instruction and Management in Special Education (K-8)	3
SPIE 4171/5171	Creating and Sustaining Positive Inclusive Learning Environments (K-12)	3
or SPIE 6171	Creating, Sustaining, and Evaluating Inclusive Learning Environments (K-12)	
SPIE 4173/5173	Instructional Methods for Inclusive Learning (5-12)	3
SPIE 4196/5196	Experience in Special & Inclusive Ed: Prac 2, Instr Strategist II Intellectual Disability K-12	3
Total Hours		24