

Five-Year Secondary Special Education Master's Program

Students in this program are dual majors who are housed in their primary content major (Biology, English, History or Mathematics) in conjunction with the Department of Educational Administration and Secondary Education (EASE) during their undergraduate years. After completing their Bachelor Degree, students transition to the Department of Special Education, Language & Literacy (SELL) for their Master's Degree.

The program is designed to prepare students who may be considering any of the following careers in education:

- A student planning to become a middle or high school **English, Mathematics, Social Studies** or **Biology** teacher who wants to be able to meet the diverse needs of secondary students in inclusive classrooms.
- A student planning to become a **Special Education** teacher who might want to work with students with disabilities in middle and high school classrooms. (*In New Jersey, the Teacher of Students with Disabilities certificate is not a stand-alone certificate and requires an additional instructional certificate.*)
- A student who may be uncertain what level they hope to teach but wants to enter the profession with extensive skill in teaching a content area, a wide body of knowledge about how diverse students learn, and an advanced degree in education.

The 5-Year SED/SPED major provides a cohesive learning experience that blends a focus on teaching a content area with course work in meeting the needs of students with disabilities. Entering first-year students will begin their coursework the first semester and be placed in the field to work with classroom students by the beginning of sophomore year. Students will have extensive practicum experiences in both general education and special education settings throughout their 4 undergraduate years. The fifth year will focus on coursework and clinical internships leading to a Master's Degree in Special Education.

Degrees & Certificates Awarded

Upon completion of the undergraduate portion, typically in four years, students earn the following:

- English Education and Social Studies Education majors: Bachelor of Arts Degree (BA)
- Mathematics Education and Biology Education majors: Bachelor of Science Degree (BS)

Upon completion of the graduate portion, typically one additional year (summer, fall and spring semester), students earn the following:

- Master of Teaching (MAT) degree in Special Education
- Certification in a Subject Area (K-12) in English, Mathematics, Social Studies or Biology
- Certification as a Teacher of Students with Disabilities (K-12)

Entrance and Retention in the Program

Students must have a minimum GPA of 2.75 to enroll in SED 399, have an overall GPA of 3.0 to enroll in student teaching, and have a GPA of 3.3 and departmental permission to overload. Students must evidence satisfactory performance on the Educators Disposition Assessment (EDA). Student dispositions are assessed throughout the program and will be used as a criterion for admission and retention in the program.

Entrance into *teacher candidacy* is granted at the end of Fall semester, Junior year, only to those students who have met the departmental requirements as well as those of the School of Education and of the College. A student must have a minimum of 16 earned course units, a grade of B- or higher in RAL 220, SPE 214 & EFN 299, and a minimum GPA of 2.75 or higher. Praxis core scores are required of students based upon the cutoff scores on the SAT or ACT tests as determined by the State. Students are required to provide evidence of passing scores on the praxis core before receiving formal admission into the program.

Courses required for Secondary and Special Education are listed below. Students may begin taking graduate courses in their senior year if they have room in their schedule after transferring in AP credit, summer courses. Two graduate courses may double-count for undergraduate general elective credit. One additional graduate course may be taken prior to admission in the graduate program during the fifth year.

Secondary and Special Education

	<u>MIN GRADE</u>
SPE 103: Soc. Legal Found Spec. Ed.	B-
EFN 299: Schools and Communities	B-
RAL 220: Lit Strategies, Assess, Instruct	B-
SED 224: Adolescent Learning and Dev.	B-
SPE 214: Exploring Classroom Communities	B-
SPE 322: Inclusive Practices	B-
SPE 324: Teach Stu Severe Disabilities	B-
SED 399: Pedagogy in Schools	B-
___390: Content Specific Methods	B-
RAL 328: Reading in Secondary Ed	B-
2 nd Education Methods/Elective Course	B-
SPE 490: Practicum in Special Ed.	B

*Additional 11-16 course units in the content major. Please see the *Biology Education, English Education, History Education, or Mathematics Education* bulletin for information about the courses required to fulfill the content major.

Special Education Graduate Course Sequence: Total of 33 credits

- SPED 522: Remedial Instruction (3 credits)
- SPED 664: Research Trends in Special Education (3 credits)
- EDUC 513: Collaboration (3 credits)
- SPED 521: Assistive Technology (3 credits)
- SPED 631: Transition & Community-Based Instruction (3 credits)

- SPED 648: Positive Behavior Supports for Students with Extreme Behaviors (3 credits)
- 1 Advanced Elective Course on Diverse Learners (3 credits)
- 1 Advanced Literacy Elective Course (3 credits)
- SPED 695: Internship - Special Education (6 credits)
- SCED 667: Current Issues in Secondary Education (Capstone) (3 credits simultaneous-listed with *SED 498: Collaborative Capstone for Professional Inquiry*)
- SPED 700: Comprehensive Exam (0 credits)