

SPECIAL EDUCATION (PRE K-12) MAJOR

Special Education - Program Overview

Saint Joseph's University Department of Special Education centers its philosophical and practical mission on attaining social justice and democracy through the education of reflective, activist-oriented teacher candidates and practicing teachers. Faculty members are committed to a disposition of academic rigor and professional integrity across our undergraduate, post- baccalaureate, and graduate programs. .

The Special Education Department is focused on helping teachers respect the knowledge traditions of students from non-dominant cultural communities as these students have been historically excluded from educational curricula. Such practices provide a framework that incorporates all aspects of learning, cognitive, linguistic, social-emotional, and cultural variables. This includes recognizing students' "funds of knowledge" and the diversity of cultural capital that exists in all homes and communities. Department faculty strive to support future teachers' adoption of practices that celebrate the unique personality traits, talents and learning differences of individual learners. This will prepare future teachers to help their students become resilient to unwanted peer pressure and bullying, and who actively challenge these and other negative influences.

Special Education PK-8 must be a double major with Elementary PK-4.

Learning Goals and Outcomes

Goal 1: Students will demonstrate knowledge of PK-8 learner development and curricular content

Objective 1.1: The student will be able to identify individual differences and to respond to the needs of individuals with exceptionalities.

Objective 1.2: The student will be able to use general and specialized content knowledge for teaching across curricular content areas to individualize learning for individuals with exceptionalities.

Goal 2: Students will demonstrate the ability to create positive PK-8 learning environments

Objective 2.1: The student will demonstrate the ability to use motivational and instructional interventions to teach individuals with exceptionalities how to adapt to different environments.

Objective 2.2: The student will demonstrate an understanding of ways to collaborate with general educators and other colleagues to create safe, inclusive, culturally responsive learning environments to engage individuals with exceptionalities in meaningful learning activities and social interactions.

Goal 3: Students will demonstrate the use of assessment for diagnosis and progress monitoring

Objective 3.1: The student will be able to select and use technically sound formal and informal assessments that minimize bias.

Objective 3.2: The student will assess performance and provide feedback.

Goal 4: Students will demonstrate knowledge of research-based instructional planning and strategies

Objective 4.1: The student will be able to identify an individual's abilities, interests, learning environments, and cultural and linguistic factors in the selection, development, and adaptation of learning experiences for individuals with exceptionalities.

Objective 4.2: The student will be able to use strategies and technology to enhance language development and communication skills of individuals with exceptionalities.

Goal 5: Students will demonstrate knowledge of professional ethical practice

Objective 5.1: The student will demonstrate an understanding that diversity is a part of families, cultures, and schools, and that complex human issues can interact with the delivery of special education services.

Objective 5.2: The student will demonstrated the ability to develop a variety of education and transition plans for individual with exceptionalities across a wide range of settings and different learning experiences in collaboration with individuals, families and teams.

The traditional undergraduate programs include 40 courses distributed across three components: A General Education component divided into Signature Courses, Variable Courses, and an Integrative Learning requirement; a Major and Divisional component; and Free Electives. In addition to course requirements as specified in each area, students must complete one certified course in each of the following overlay areas:

1. *Diversity, Globalization or Non-western Area Studies,*
2. *Ethics Intensive, and*
3. *Writing Intensive. Overlay requirements are part of the forty-course requirement.*

General Education Signature Courses

See this page about Signature courses (<https://academiccatalog.sju.edu/curricula/#signature>). Six courses

General Education Variable Courses

See this page about Variable courses (<https://academiccatalog.sju.edu/curricula/#variable>). Six to Nine courses

General Education Overlays

See this page about Overlays (<https://academiccatalog.sju.edu/curricula/#overlay>).

Code	Title	Hours
Diversity Intensive		
EDU 150	Schools in Society w/ Field	3
EDU 246	Language and Culture w/ Field	3
Writing Intensive		
EDU 151	Cognition & Learning w/ Field	3
Ethics Intensive		
SPE 160	Intro to Special Education	3

General Education Integrative Learning Component

See this page about Integrative Learning Component (<https://academiccatalog.sju.edu/curricula/#integrative-learning>). Three courses:

Code	Title	Hours
HIS 201	History of the United States	3
or HIS 202	History of the United States	
MAT 111	The Mathematics of Patterns	3
or MAT 118	Introduction to Statistics	
SPE 160	Intro to Special Education	3

GEP Electives (for PK-4 major only)

Six courses

BS in Education with Special Education PK-8 Certification

(Special Education PK-8 must be a double major with Elementary PK-4)

Double Major: PK-4 and Special Education PK-8 List of Courses

Code	Title	Hours
EDU 121	Child Development	3
EDU 150	Schools in Society w/ Field	3
EDU 151	Cognition & Learning w/ Field	3
EDU 155	Found of Early Child w/ Field	3
EDU 231	Assessment and Evaluation	3
EDU 232	Literacy/Literature I w/ Field	3
EDU 240	Literacy/Literature II w/Field	3
EDU 242	Tech Enhan Curr & Inst w/Field	3
EDU 246	Language and Culture w/ Field	3
EDU 362	Soc Stud Thru Arts PK4 w/Field	3
EDU 363	Science Methods PK-4 w/ Field	3
EDU 365	Math & Technology PK4 w/Field	3
SPE 160	Intro to Special Education	3
SPE 205	Inclusive Classrooms w/ Field	3
SPE 320	Progress Monitoring w/ Field	3
SPE 329	Educ Stds w/High Incid Disabil	3
SPE 339	Educ Stds w/Low Incid Disabil	3
SPE 349	Literacy & Intervention Strat	3
SPE 359	Math & Content Area Interv Str	3
SPE 369	Ed Stds w/Emot-Social Beh Disb	3
SPE 379	Fam School & Comm:Diverse Soc	3
SPE 495	Special Ed. Student Teaching	6
EDU 498	Dual Major Student Teaching	6