SPECIAL EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts in Education

The Special Education program prepares teachers to work with students with disabilities in kindergarten through twelfth grade. The program focuses on effective teaching practices used in special education for elementary and secondary school settings.

Students in this major must complete the Washington State requirements for an endorsement in special education. A minor is not required with this major.

Career Opportunities

This program results in the ability for students to confidently sit for the Washington Educator Skills Test (WEST-E) which is required for Washington State certification to teach special education. We offer two endorsements in special education: (1) a K–12 and (2) an early childhood (birth through age eight).

Graduates find that they are highly marketable because this program has a reputation of preparing their students well to teach special education.

Knowledge and Skills

This program is aligned with national standards and competencies established for special education teachers. Students will learn specific methods and strategies for teaching students with disabilities in a wide range of educational placements.

The program is designed to provide a progression of courses that builds a pre-service teacher’s unfolding knowledge about theories and practices.

Strong emphasis is given to research-based and scientifically-validated curricula, instructional methods and classroom management techniques.

Students complete a course of study designed to cover the full range of students with disabilities and their unique needs (from mild to severe disabilities across the development period – early childhood to adulthood).

Curriculum

The program offers students the opportunity to learn about both the theoretical and practical parts of teaching. This program includes special emphasis on field experiences working directly with students with disabilities. All students are required to complete three quarters of human experience (including two quarters of practica and one quarter of student teaching).

Special education majors must complete a minimum of 103-105 credit hours taken from the course requirements list for a BAE in Special Education along with their secondary (minimum of 44 credit hours) or elementary (minimum of 100 credit hours) course requirements.

A minor in Special Education or Early Childhood Special Education is also available. See department advisor for more information.

Special Features

Students have access to the latest scientifically-based curricula shown to be effective for students with disabilities. Students will have access to cutting edge assessments tools to pinpoint academic and behavioral difficulties. Further, students have access to quality placements in and around the Spokane, Washington area including an on-campus integrated preschool for preschoolers with autism.

Students have the unique opportunity to apply what they have learned in their course work within their field experiences. Course
work is carefully sequenced to ensure students’ success.

Multiple field experiences with careful onsite supervision are offered in the public schools for our students. This program offers a focus on applied behavior analysis and direct instruction. Students are well prepared to be consumers of these effective technologies.

Preparation for Admission
Admission into the program is through the successful completion of the EDUC 200 gateway class. The prerequisites for this course are located at: http://www.ewu.edu/educ200req For more information on this program please visit the department website at: http://www.ewu.edu/cedp

Prospective EWU students can apply online at http://www.ewu.edu/admissions or contact the Office of Admissions at 509.359.2397 to request an application.

Certification Requirements
Students who plan to work in public schools must be licensed or certified in the state in which they teach. A bachelor’s degree along with minimum performance on written state certification teacher examinations is required (WEST-E for Washington State). Private and parochial schools have varied requirements for teaching certification. Each state is different so it is important to check state requirements before making any educational decisions.

For More Information Contact
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The University
Eastern Washington University is a student-centered, regionally based, comprehensive university. This vision informs and inspires EWU’s future. Its campus is located in Cheney within the Spokane metropolitan area, with additional learning centers in the region and elsewhere in Washington State.

Note:
Information in this guide is subject to change without notice. To learn more about the official program of study, please check the catalog online at:
http://www.ewu.edu/x15588.xml