

# Special Education

In 1975, Congress passed the Individuals with Disability Education Act (IDEA), mandating that all children with disabilities between the ages of three and 21, regardless of the type or severity of their disability, receive a free, and appropriate public education. Since a national count began in 1976, the number of children receiving special education has grown every year. Today, more than 5 million children with disabilities, about eight percent of the school-age population, receive special education services.

Special education is a profession focused on evaluating and meeting the learning needs of exceptional children and adults. At a more practical level, special education is individually planned, systematically implemented, and carefully evaluated instruction to help learners with disabilities achieve the greatest possible personal self-sufficiency and success.

The Bachelor of Science in Special Education is an undergraduate teacher licensure program that prepares students for professional careers servicing the educational needs of individuals with disabilities. The program emphasizes the design, implementation, and evaluation of direct instruction to help learners with special needs acquire and use the knowledge and skills necessary to function successfully in school, home, work, or community settings. Special education majors, with excellent academic records, can pursue advanced curricular enrichment through independent studies with faculty and a senior honors thesis. Many special education majors are active members of the Ohio State chapter of the Student Council for Exceptional Children (SCEC), a national organization.

## Pursuing Special Education at Ohio State

High school students interested in special education should complete a college preparatory program and develop good written and oral communication skills. Work or volunteer experiences for programs serving children and/or adults with disabilities are recommended. Opportunities for such experiences can be arranged by contacting special education teachers, community recreation programs, summer camps, and county boards of mental retardation/developmental disabilities.

All freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process for the Columbus campus. The primary criteria for admission are the completion of the applicant's high school college preparatory program, performance in that program as indicated by class rank and/or grade-point average, and performance on either the ACT or SAT.

Students who come to Ohio State to study special education will be directly enrolled as pre-special education students in the School of Physical Activity & Educational Services (PAES) if they meet one of the following criteria: (1) ACT composite scores of 22 or higher or combined SAT Critical Reading and Math scores of 1030 or higher or (2) rank in the top 35 percent of their high school classes enroll. Those students not eligible to directly enroll

in special education may enroll in the Exploration Program. To learn more, visit [exploration.osu.edu](http://exploration.osu.edu).

Students must apply to the special education major during autumn quarter of their sophomore year. Qualified applicants will be interviewed during winter quarter for admission during spring quarter of their sophomore year. Application forms may be obtained online at [ehe.osu.edu/paes](http://ehe.osu.edu/paes) or in person and returned to A100 PAES Building. The deadline for application is October 31 for admission into the major for the following spring quarter.

To be considered for admission to the program, students must meet the following minimum criteria:

- 2.75 cumulative grade point average for 60 or more earned credit hours
- Attainment of a grade of B- or higher for the following courses:
  - English 110 First Year Composition
  - Math 105 Math Concepts for Teachers
  - EDU PAES 251 Introduction to Special Education Profession plus Field Experience
  - EDU PAES 271 and 289.01 First Education Experience Program (FEEP)
- Three letters of reference, including one letter from a cooperating teacher in EDU PAES 271 and two letters attesting to the applicant's potential to teach and relate to children, interpersonal skills, work habits, and/or motivation to pursue special education as a career.

## Special Education Requirements

After being admitted to the special education major, students may select from three (3) distinct licensure curricula:

- Mild/Moderate Intervention Specialist (K-12 license)
- Moderate/Intensive Intervention Specialist (K-12 license)
- Early Childhood Intervention Specialist (Pre-K to 3 license)

In addition to completing course requirements, students must maintain a minimum 2.75 cumulative grade point average in the teaching content area and successfully fulfill field-based and clinical experience responsibilities. Quarterly reviews of the student's academic achievement as well as performances in clinical and field-based experiences for integrating teaching and learning theories will be monitored by the faculty. Students who intend to pursue teacher licensure in the area of special education must pass the Praxis II Exam and complete a background check.

## Co-Curricular Opportunities

The Ohio State chapter of the **Student Council for Exceptional Children** is very active. Affiliated with the largest professional association in special education, SCEC is a student-run organization that conducts community service activities for individuals with disabilities and arranges seminars and events to help its members learn more about special education. More information at: [ehe.osu.edu/paes/speced/SCEC\\_Home.htm](http://ehe.osu.edu/paes/speced/SCEC_Home.htm).

**For more information, check these web sites:**

**Special Education:** [ehe.osu.edu/paes](http://ehe.osu.edu/paes)  
**College of Education and Human Ecology:** [ehe.osu.edu](http://ehe.osu.edu)  
**Ohio State:** [osu.edu](http://osu.edu)

**Admissions:** [undergrad.osu.edu](http://undergrad.osu.edu)  
**Multicultural Center:** [multiculturalcenter.osu.edu](http://multiculturalcenter.osu.edu)  
**First Year Experience Program:** [fye.osu.edu](http://fye.osu.edu)

## Curriculum Sample

This is a sample list of classes a student may take to pursue the Bachelor of Science in Special Education. Since university students need more than specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete the General Education Curriculum (GEC). The GEC will allow students to develop the fundamental skills essential to collegiate success across major programs. Course work options satisfying the GEC often come from a variety of academic areas of study allowing students to tailor their GEC toward their interests. **Note: This sample represents one of several possible paths to a degree in special education.** Consult the departmental web site, [ehe.osu.edu/paes](http://ehe.osu.edu/paes), for details on each specific track.

Freshman Year:	
Education Survey	1
Health and Well-being	3
English	5
Math	10
Introduction to Special Education	5
First Education Experience	8
GEC Courses	10
Sociology	5
Freshman Seminar	1
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>48</b>

Sophomore Year:	
Reading Foundations	4
Psychology	5
2nd Year Writing Course	5
Children's Literature	3
Health Education for Elementary Teachers	3
Linguistics	5
Applied Behavior Analysis	3
GEC Courses	15
Free Electives	3
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>46</b>

Junior Year:	
Teaching Methods and Field Experience	12
Assistive Technology	3
Phonics	5
Clinical Reading	4
Philosophy/History of Education	3
Educational Assessment	3
GEC Courses	15
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>45</b>

Senior Year:	
Classroom Management	3
Treating Reading Disabilities	5
Music	3
Transition from School to Adult Life	3
Teaching Social Behavior to Students with Disabilities	3
Inclusion	3
Student Teaching (supervised)	12
Introduction to Child Development	5
GEC Courses	5
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>42</b>

**Kappa Phi Kappa** is a national professional co-ed fraternity in education devoted to the professional development of its members through activities and opportunities, making members aware of career opportunities in education, informing interested members about the education programs at Ohio State, helping members meet possible future colleagues, and helping to support the Columbus community through various community service activities. More information at: [kpk.org.ohio-state.edu](http://kpk.org.ohio-state.edu).

**EHE Ambassadors** are student leaders promoting and contributing to the growth of the College of Education and Human Ecology. These students serve as representatives of their college and majors to prospective students and their families, currently enrolled students, faculty and staff, alumni, donors, and the university community, while being devoted to service and leadership. More information at [eheambassadors.org.ohio-state.edu](http://eheambassadors.org.ohio-state.edu).

## Sport & Wellness Learning Community

The School of PAES, along with University Housing, is proud to sponsor the Sport & Wellness Learning Community. Many students find the focus on sport, fitness, and holistic health adds balance to academic life at Ohio State. The program offers students numerous opportunities to maintain and explore areas of interest related to physical fitness, personal health, and exercise featuring group yoga classes, white water rafting trips and more. Affiliated faculty and staff interact with students in shared classes, community activities, and sporting events on campus and in the Columbus community. Located in Morrill Tower, right next to the Recreation and Physical Activity Center and home of the School of PAES, the Sport & Wellness Learning Community program is a perfect choice for PAES students.

## Honors & Scholars Programs

Honors opportunities within the College of Education and Human Ecology are described on the web at [ehe.osu.edu/paes\\_students/undergrad/honors/program.htm](http://ehe.osu.edu/paes_students/undergrad/honors/program.htm). Honors & Scholars programs represent great opportunities to be part of a smaller community within a large university. Good candidates for these programs will receive additional information after admission to the university. Learn more about the Honors & Scholars program at [honors-scholars.osu.edu](http://honors-scholars.osu.edu).

## Career Prospects in Special Education

Special education graduates may seek careers in child and family services and residential and vocation services for adults with disabilities. Students seeking careers as Intervention Specialists in public schools will find a robust job market immediately after completing the baccalaureate program.

According to Ohio Department of Education teacher supply and demand data (April 2004), 781 special education vacancies existed last year. Special education is among the most severe area of teacher shortage in the state, while Ohio experiences a steady increase in the number and percentage of special education students. There is a severe shortage of qualified professionals in this field.

## Teaching Credentials

Graduates from the Bachelor's program in Special Education will receive licensure as an Early Childhood Intervention Specialist, Mild to Moderate Intervention Specialist, or Moderate to Intensive Intervention Specialist upon successful completion of program and state requirements.

**Revised July 2008.** For the most up-to-date information on the special education program, please visit [education.osu.edu/paes](http://education.osu.edu/paes).

## Contact information:

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