

SPECIAL EDUCATION, B.S.

Contact

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Mission

The mission of the School of Education is to prepare lifelong reflective educators who exhibit flexibility, compassion, collaboration, and student-centered pedagogy knowledge and skills. The School of Education offers strong experiential, student-centered, and responsive program preparing students to develop:

- Knowledge of content and instructional practice
- Professional dispositions
- Pedagogical skills

Vision

Our vision is to prepare future educators to have an exponential impact on the lives of their students and the broader community.

The core values that drive the School of Education and guide our ethos, principles, and standards are:

- Knowledgeable Professionals
- Collaborative Practitioners
- Inclusive and Culturally Competent Educators
- Reflective Life-Long Learners

Major Description

The Bachelor of Science with a major in Special Education program will lead to special education certification in the state of Maine. Completers of this program will graduate, along with having a breadth and depth in general education outcomes, with the skills, knowledge, and dispositions to educate a wide variety of students with disabilities in K-12 school settings. Additionally, this major has been designed using existing education courses as a foundation, enabling students to double major in Special Education and one of the other Education programs.

Transfer Credit

See Undergraduate Admissions (<https://catalog.une.edu/undergraduate/admissions/>) for more information.

Admissions

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Financial Information

Tuition and fees for subsequent years may vary. Other expenses include books and housing. For more tuition and fee information, please consult this catalog's Financial Information (<https://catalog.une.edu/undergraduate/financial-information-undergraduate-programs/>) section.

Curricular Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Nor'easter Core Requirements		
Nor'easter Core Requirements (https://catalog.une.edu/undergraduate/core-curriculum/)		40
Program Required Courses		
EDU 105	Exploring Teaching	3
EDU 115	Field Practicum I	1
EDU 120	Educating for Community and Belonging	3
EDU 206	Foundations of Lit/Lang Dev	3
EDU 215	Field Practicum 2	2
PSY 250	Lifespan Dev in Context	3
SPE 220	Introduction to Special Education	3
SPE 300	Instructional Methods for Teaching Students with Disabilities	3
SPE 315	Supporting Students with Autism and Other Low Incidence Disabilities	3
SPE 401	Inclusive Classroom Management	3
SPE 410	Assessing & Remediating Challenging Behaviors	3
SPE 486	Special Education Practicum	3
SPE 490	Spec Edu Internship/Seminar	12
Two Program Specific Electives		6
Open Elective Courses (Students complete open elective credits as necessary to meet the University's 120-credit minimum for graduation. The total number of elective credits required will depend on the student's completed program, core, and other degree requirements.)		29
Total Hours		120

This program requires an overall minimum 2.5 GPA in the major.

Program-Specific Electives Options

Code	Title	Hours
OS 201	Foundations of Assistive Technology	3
OS 301	Assistive Technology in Schools	3
OS 432	Disability Studies and Inclusive Communities	3
PSY 105	Introduction to Psychology	3
PSY 205	Abnormal Psychology	3
PSY 290	Developmental Psychopathology	3
PSY 310	Children and Stress	3
PSY 364	Soc & Emotion Dev in Childhood	3
PSY 380	Human Learning and Behavior	3
SSW 200	Introduction to Social Work	3
SSW 300	Human Behavior and Social Work Theory I	3
Any Course with an SPE Prefix		3
Any Course with an EDU Prefix		3

Please note: While some courses can fulfill both core and program requirements, the credits earned do not count twice towards the minimum total required credits for the degree.

Academic and Technical Standards

Field Experience

The faculty in the School of Education is committed to ongoing and frequent observation and involvement in schools. The teacher education programs at UNE have a specific competency-based focus to meet the Maine standards for teacher certification. All students engaged in teacher preparation will spend time in a field setting in each of the semesters for which they are registered for professional education courses. Involvement in the schools will be connected to specific, course-related tasks (e.g., observation, teaching lessons, conducting experiments, administering assessments, etc.). Transportation to and from schools is the responsibility of the student.

Advanced Standing

All students in education certification programs must apply for admission to Advanced Standing when they have completed at least three semesters and completed at least three education courses. To apply for Advanced Standing, students must develop a portfolio demonstrating how they have met proficiency in the following areas: a) teaching skills, knowledge, and disposition aligned with the Maine Common Core Teaching Standards; b) basic academic skills; and c) professional skills. This portfolio is evaluated by a committee of education faculty, and a pass/fail determination is made based on a holistic rubric.

Students not meeting the Advanced Standing criteria do not remain enrolled in a certification program and MUST change their major to a non-certification major. Students can reapply for Advanced Standing upon completion of each additional semester. Students must pass by the semester before scheduled student teaching (i.e., pass Dec. 1 for Spring student teaching; pass May 1 for Fall student teaching).

Student Teaching

Without specific permission from the School of Education Director, courses may not be taken during the internship semester, so all required coursework must be completed the semester prior to the internship. Admission to the internship is not guaranteed and students must have passed Advanced Standing to apply.

The selection of individual internship sites will be made by the Certification and Placement Officer. Geographical location relative to UNE is a consideration. UNE has a collaborative relationship with many districts and selects both schools and teachers based on their interest in and ability to assist interns in demonstrating mastery of the Maine Common Core Teaching Standards. Placement in an internship is not guaranteed. The School of Education reserves the right to deny requests for courtesy internship placement for reasons it deems appropriate or necessary. The University, at its discretion, will not place students in internship settings 1) where an intern's children or relatives are enrolled, or 2) where a spouse or relative of an intern is currently employed. The School of Education, through its Certification and Placement Officer, will make a good-faith effort to negotiate an appropriate placement. Schools have the right to refuse placement requests. The 15-week student teaching experience must be done in a local Maine Public School that is in an established internship protocol with the University of New England. Students may not be permitted to accept a contracted teaching position (e.g., long-term substituting, yearlong internship) before completing at least half a semester of student teaching internship. However, student teaching interns may be permitted to sub on a day-to-day basis for their classroom teacher.

Professional Educator Review Board

All students enrolled in the internship must demonstrate their teaching competence with respect to Maine Common Core Teaching Standards before the Professional Educator Review Board (PERB). The Board is comprised of professional educators from area schools as well as UNE faculty. Students are required to develop a presentation reflecting their proficiency in meeting these state standards and present and defend the presentation in front of the Board. Passing PERB is a requirement for completion of the certification program and subsequently being recommended to the Maine State Department of Education for teacher licensure.

Completion Requirements

All coursework, including the internship, should be completed within a five-year time frame. A delay beyond the five years might warrant the retaking of coursework. Furthermore, if state certification requirements change prior to your completion even within the five-year timeframe, those changes must be incorporated into a revised program plan, in order to meet state certification regulations.

Learning Outcomes

School of Education Learning Outcomes

At the completion of their bachelor's degree with a major in Special Education, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate mastery of the Maine Common Core Teaching Standards
- Demonstrate professionalism through accountability and engagement
- Demonstrate ability to communicate effectively in both written and oral formats
- Demonstrate appropriate dispositions as defined by professional expectations