Special Education (SPED)

Courses

SPED 330 Special Topics in Special Education 1-3 Credits
Current issues in the education of individuals with special needs. Titles vary.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.

SPED 332 Education and Inclusion of Individuals with Special Needs in K-12 3 Credits
Overview of social, developmental, legal, and educational issues and practices related to the special education of individuals with disabilities. Covers social, environmental, and physiological etiology; development; identification; learning characteristics; and needs of individuals identified for special education. Emphasizes meeting diverse needs of students in general education classrooms through evidence-based practices and adaptations matched to learner needs. Addresses legal rights of students and their families, as well as legal responsibilities of teachers as required by IDEIA and other related special legislation.

SPED 338 Emotional and Behavioral Disorders of Children 3 Credits
Definition, classification, etiology, treatment, and historical perspective of children and adolescent disorders.

SPED 402 (SCHP 402) Applied Behavior Analysis 3 Credits
Theory and application of behavior modification methods in classroom and clinical settings. Topics include behavior analysis, outcome research, task utilization, and single case research.

SPED 404 (TLT 404) Diversity, Families, and School Collaborations in K-12 3 Credits
Cultural and linguistic diversity as critical variables in educational equity for all learners, including ELL. Explores home-school partnerships, family and professional collaboration, and teacher self-awareness. Implementing culturally sensitive and responsive classroom practices as well as forming collaborative relationships with families that respect diversity of family contexts. Collaborative, multidisciplinary teaming to support, optimize, and advocate for student’s educational needs and connect to community services and resources available to individuals and families. Addresses family mental health issues and wraparound services.

SPED 405 (TLT 405) Principles and Applications of K-12 Assessment 3 Credits
Assessment applied to learning in classroom learning environments, including universal screening and progress monitoring. Discusses assessment approaches, ways to implement assessment, and use of assessment tools to monitor all students, including ELL and students with disabilities. Use of data-management and grading systems. Addresses diagnostic assessments for student placement and analysis of assessment data to tailor instruction to diverse student needs. Emphasis on research-based practices of assessment to inform instructional decision-making consistent with the RTI framework.

SPED 409 (TLT 409) K-12 Classroom Environment and Management 3 Credits
Designing inclusive classroom environments that maximize learning. Emphasis on fostering a community of learners using connections among classroom arrangement, classroom management, and cognitive development to create positive learning outcomes for all students, including ELL learners and students with disabilities. Addresses the tiered model of prevention and positive behavior support, including the role of functional assessment and individual positive behavior support plans in classroom management. Highlights the ways a positive climate for learning involves establishing and maintaining partnerships with families.

SPED 411 (TLT 411) Early Childhood Education 3 Credits
Introduction to development of early childhood education in the U.S. Emphasizes evidence-based methods and materials to assist young children in the learning process, including arrangement of indoor/outdoor space, developmentally appropriate practices, and the design of instruction to foster young children’s emotional, social, language, cognitive, physical, and creative development. Includes embedded instruction and adaptations for students with identified disabilities, children at risk for developing disabilities, and children with culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and family collaboration within the instructional planning process.

SPED 418 Alternative Curricular Approaches 3 Credits
Curricular and instructional methods for students with pervasive support needs (e.g., intellectual disabilities, autism) who follow an alternative or modified curriculum. Methods for developing an individualized curriculum, embedding instruction and accessing the general education curriculum, systematic instruction, and instruction for full participation in school, home, and community settings are covered. Strategies for facilitating emergent social and communication skills, teaching augmentative and alternative communication, and use of assistive technologies to enhance self-directed learning are included.

SPED 419 Academic Interventions: PreK-8 3 Credits
Methods course designed to address the needs of students with disabilities to increase knowledge of instruction of comprehensive pre-literacy and literacy skills and their components. Additionally, pre-reading, reading, language arts, mathematics, and content area reading literacy skills in primary and elementary settings will be addressed. Emphasis on instructional planning, differentiated instructional strategies, appropriate assessments modifications, and adaptations needed for use with individuals with disabilities through a conceptual foundation in the components of reading and the integration of research validated interventions.

SPED 420 Field Experience: Special Education Certification 1-3 Credits
Intensive practice in the application of principles of teaching in a supervised experience in the schools for students who already hold another content area certification (e.g., elementary, middle school, secondary). Consent of the program.

SPED 421 Academic Interventions: Secondary Level 3 Credits
Methods course designed to increase knowledge of core components of reading in secondary settings, language arts, mathematics, and content area literacy skills for students with disabilities and those who are culturally and/or linguistically diverse. Emphasis on instructional planning, differentiated instructional strategies, appropriate assessments, modifications, and adaptations needed for use with individuals with disabilities through a conceptual foundation in the components of reading and the integration of research validated interventions.

SPED 423 Transition to Post-school Life 3 Credits
Best instructional practices for preparing students for post-school adult life: employment, post-secondary education, and community participation in inclusive settings. Topics include transition planning, personcentered and work-based assessments, family and interagency collaboration, innovative post-school and inschool transition services, and self-determination. Evidence-based practices to promote positive student outcomes are emphasized.

SPED 429 Professional Seminar 3 Credits
Master’s seminar on current issues in the area of special education and research design. Must have 18 graduate credits in special education.

SPED 430 Advanced Seminar in Special Education 3 Credits
Advanced issues relating to the field of special education. Titles will vary.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
SPED 432 Positive Behavior Support 3 Credits
Design of comprehensive, multi-component behavior support plans for individuals with a variety of disabilities who engage in problem behavior. Topics include functional assessment, antecedent and setting event interventions, replacement behaviors, consequence and crisis procedures, lifestyle interventions, and teaming strategies. Assessment focuses on the link between curriculum, academic performance, and behavior problems. Promotes consideration of diverse populations for understanding behavioral differences. Describes strategies for ongoing monitoring and maintenance of behavior reductions.

SPED 434 (SCHP 434) Applied Research Practicum 1-3 Credits
Designing and conducting research projects in applied settings.

SPED 440 Early Academic Intervention 3 Credits
Explores the potential effectiveness of interventions to prevent academic failure of children at risk for learning difficulties. Emphasis on research-based interventions in the areas of beginning reading, language and vocabulary, writing and spelling, awareness of print and exposure to print, and mathematics (number sense).

SPED 442 (TLT 442) General Education and Special Education Student Teaching and Seminar 1-6 Credits
Intensive practice in the application of principles of teaching for both general and special education settings in a supervised internship in the schools (for dual certification). Regular meetings among student teachers for critical analysis and discussion of classroom instructional practices, as illustrated by the student teachers’ experiences in the schools. Practical mentoring on professionalism, applying differentiated instructional models in real-world setting, and aligning instruction with standards. Consent of program director required.

SPED 448 Practicum/Seminar in Positive Behavior Specialist 1 3 Credits
Introductory supervised field work with emphasis on conducting functional assessments, designing positive behavior support plans, and teaming with families and professionals. Requires one-hour weekly meetings with faculty and other practicum students. This course is restricted to students enrolled in the Positive Behavior Specialist program.

SPED 450 Practicum/Seminar in Positive Behavior Specialist 2 3 Credits
Advanced field work with emphasis on resolving difficult case problems in positive behavior support. Requires one-hour weekly meetings with faculty and other practicum students. This course is restricted to students enrolled in the Positive Behavior Specialist program.

SPED 452 Assessment in Special Education 3 Credits
Identification, administration and interpretation of a variety of assessments used for planning and to determine special education eligibility and to assess social, emotional, behavioral, and academic functioning. Discusses strengths and limitations of various models and assessment, both formal and informal, instruments used to evaluate the need for special education. Describes strategies to enhance the relationship between assessment and service delivery. Addresses assessment practices to identify curricular needs consistent with the RtI framework.

SPED 465 Advanced Inclusionary Practices in K-12 3 Credits
Advanced techniques grounded in current research-based methods and best practice for educating and assessing students with disabilities, students from diverse backgrounds, and English language learners using a standards-aligned system. Accommodations, modifications, planning for physical and instructional inclusion through embedded strategic instruction, adaptations, and curriculum overlapping. Addresses decision hierarchies for level of instructional adaptation and social inclusion methods through social facilitation techniques. Explores critical factors in developing, implementing, and modifying curriculum using evidence-based practices. Explores collaborative co-planning and co-teaching models.

Prerequisites: SPED 332

SPED 490 Doctoral Seminar in Special Education 3 Credits
Advanced knowledge of issues and research in the education of individuals with special needs. Topics will vary. Must be admitted for doctoral studies.

Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.

SPED 499 Dissertation 1-15 Credits
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.