

HANDBOOK

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act, but a habit. –Aristotle

Dear Candidates:

We encourage you to study this handbook so you are aware of your rights and responsibilities. Additional information about the campus and the School of Education (SOE) can be found in the college bulletin and on the SOE's website.

Acquiring the knowledge, skills and dispositions needed to be a high quality special educator takes time and effort. We are here to support your efforts and wish the best.

Program Faculty

GENERAL INFORMATION & POLICIES

Beliefs about Children and Youth

The Special Education program is guided by the following beliefs:

- All students can learn, have strengths, and are worthy of respect and self-direction.
- Differences are normal and can be used as positive springboards.
- Powerful opportunities for growth and development are most likely to occur when the environment is nurturing, predictable, and takes into account internal and external factors.
- Prevention is as essential as compensation and remediation.
- A broad range of instructional options and services can be provided in a variety of physical settings and should be viewed as standard operating procedures.
- Assessing, labeling, and delivering services may produce intended as well as unintended consequences.
- School reform should meaningfully involve all stakeholders, with particular attention to affirming family and community members as decision-makers and collaborators.

Degrees and Certifications Offered

IUS has the following program options for candidates (i.e., IUS students) seeking a license in special education:

Table 1: Program Options

Option Name	Level	For candidates....
B.S. in Special Education	Undergraduate Degree	Completing their first bachelor's degree.
Post-baccalaureate Initial License Area	Graduate Level, non-degree	With a bachelor's degree but not a full teaching license. (career changers)
Graduate Level Second License Area	Graduate Level non-degree	With a full teaching license wanting to add another teaching area.

All three options yield an all-grade (K-12) Indiana Mild Intervention teaching license. It is closely aligned with Kentucky's Learning & Behavior Disorders. This license qualifies the holder to teach elementary and secondary education students who have one or more of the following disabilities: learning disabilities, emotional disabilities, mild or moderate mental disabilities, orthopedic impairments, other health impairments, autism spectrum disorder, or traumatic brain injury. This license does not qualify a person to teach "general education" at the elementary, middle school or high school level.