

Requirements for BS Degree in Special Education

Completion of 130 credit hours is required for the B.S. in Special Education. The coursework is divided into two main areas (See Appendix B for a detailed list.):

General Education Candidates complete courses in the Schools of Arts and Letters, Social Science and Natural Science in order to become well-rounded members of society and gain basic knowledge in subject matter content. The academic goals of this component are outlined by the campus faculty and the content exceeds what special educators will teach their own students. Degree requirements for the B.S. in special education ensure that candidates meet the campus general education requirements.

Professional and Pedagogical Studies Students complete courses and experiences leading to successful demonstration of what special educators need to know and be able to do. All-Learners Content courses focus on knowledge, skills, and dispositions needed by teachers who provide instruction in core subjects. Specialty Area Content courses target particular knowledge and skills for special educators.

Application for Admission to the Special Education Program

Because All-Learner coursework is the foundation of the Special Education Program, candidates for both programs apply simultaneously to join a cohort group each fall and spring semester. Specific requirements and the application process are described in the next section and explained in group advising sessions held by the University Division.

When Courses Should Be Completed

Candidates are advised to pay close attention to when they need to complete general education (i.e., liberal arts), all-learner and specialty area courses. Course from all three are woven together throughout the program. To expedite progress through the program, candidates should:

- Carefully read the college Bulletin and take advantage of group and individual advisement in University Division.
- Monitor your own progress by keeping a program check sheet up-to-date. A check can be found in the University Division and its website, at the main office of the School of Education in Hillside Hall, and in the appendix of this handbook.
- Complete ENG W131, SPCH S121, EDUC H340, and MATH T101 as early as possible.
- Obtain passing scores on entrance test without delay. (Information about the test is contained in this handbook).
- Complete EDUC K205 as quickly as possible after EDUC H340.

Sequence of All-Learners Courses While enrolled in EDUC H340 Education and American Culture (NOTE: A grade of C or better in ENG W131 is a prerequisite for H340), candidates may apply for acceptance into the Special Education program. Accepted candidates join a cohort group that contains elementary and special education majors and that proceeds through a five-semester sequence of education courses. The sequence contains clusters of all-learners courses, each cluster often being referred to as a "block." Each block includes a component done in local schools and student teaching, the last block, is an all-day full-semester daytime commitment. The Course Sequence Chart at the end of this document describes the sequence of courses.

Sequence of Specialty Area Courses

Proceeding efficiently through All-Learner and Specialty Area courses takes attention to when courses are offered and a candidate's projected student teaching semester. Though students are responsible for being

informed about requirements and changes, complete self-advisement is not recommended. Advisors in University Division and Special Education faculty should be consulted.

Though considered part of the All-Learners sequence of courses, EDUC K205 which is offered each semester and in the summer is the first special education course students should complete. It should be completed immediately after EDUC H340. The table below provides information about course sequence.

Special Area Courses	Available	Comment
K490B, C, D AT; TBI & Autism; Functional Curriculum	Fall Only	Take after K205
K370 Introduction to Learning Disorders	Spring Only	Take after K205
K344 Education of Soc. & Emotionally Disabled	Spring Only	Take the spring before student teaching.
K453 Management of Academic and Social Behavior	Spring & Summer	Take after K205
K352 Education of Children with Learning Problems	Fall & Summer	Take after General Methods Block
K345 Academic and Behavioral Assessment	Fall Only	Take the fall before student teaching
M470 Practicum A (90 clock hrs.)	Fall & Spring	Usually with General Methods Block
M470 Practicum B (90 clock hrs.)	Fall & Spring	Usually with Specific Methods Block 1
M470 Practicum C (90 clock hrs.)	Fall & Spring	Usually with Specific Methods Block 2
K480 Student Teaching (entire semester)	Fall & Spring	After all coursework is completed.

Other Advising Information About Special Area Coursework

- All Special Education courses except for EDUC K205 require candidates to obtain permission to enroll. Candidates can obtain permission by contacting their assigned faculty advisor in the Special Education program.
- See section entitled "Criminal History and Sex Offenders Registry Check" for important information.

Portfolio

Majors submit an assessment portfolio for each of the three practica (M470 A, B, and C) and then again for student teaching. The projects for the portfolio relate to the students in the classroom where the field experience is occurring and are used to help evaluate candidate performance on standards and professional dispositions. When Special Education candidates complete All-Learners block classes they demonstrate their knowledge and skills related to course content through projects suitable for the portfolio required for Elementary Education majors. Special Education candidates are encouraged to keep those projects for including in an optional employment portfolio.

Good Standing

To remain in good standing in the Teacher Education Program, candidates in special education must:

1. maintain an overall Indiana University GPA of 2.5.
2. complete each professional education course with a grade of C (2.0) or higher and earn no less than a grade of B-(2.7) in each special education course,
3. maintain a minimum overall GPA in professional education courses of 2.5 (or Satisfactory in courses graded as S/F), and

4. maintain a minimum of 2.5 GPA for the "content blocks" (i.e., Arts & Letters, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences).
5. earn no less than a grade of "C" in each course and an average of at least 2.5 for the required mathematics group (MATH 101, 102 and 103).
6. exhibit acceptable professional dispositions.
7. successfully pass through summative decision points without conditions or probation.

A candidate is not in good standing if s/he fails to meet any of the criteria listed in the above section. Consequences for not achieving good standing include but are not limited to (1) denial of enrollment in EDUC courses, (2) continuation under conditions or probation, (3) dismissal from the program or (4) placement on a Individual Support & Improvement Plan (see next section). NOTE: Students with an overall GPA of less than a 2.0 can be put on probation from the School of Education.

Student Teaching

Student teaching is considered the capstone experience. Permission to student teach is determined in Summative Decision Point Four and requires that the candidate:

- a. be in good standing in the program,
- b. successfully complete all appropriate methods courses and field experiences,
- c. have no more than two general education courses remaining,
- d. submit an application to student teach,
- e. complete adult first aid and CPR training, and
- f. have a clear criminal history check.

Application for the Degree

Candidates should complete an Application for a Degree form (HH0023) no less than one semester before they intend to complete all degree requirements. Though candidates can participate in commencement ceremonies if they have no more than six credit hours remaining, the degree cannot be conferred until all requirements are met.

Application for a Teaching License

Candidates must apply for a teaching license. All requirements for the degree and passing Praxis II scores are needed before applications can be considered. Application forms for Kentucky and Indiana are available in the Field Placement Office Suite (HH029). Special education majors should plan to attend the student teaching seminar which features licensing as its focus.