Degree Program Description

The Bachelor of Science in Education in Special Education prepares students to work with children from kindergarten through twelfth grade in public, private, and alternative school systems. Students should consider a degree in special education if they enjoy working with children and/or adolescents who are struggling or who have special needs, want to help these students develop into strong citizens, and are excellent collaborators. MU Students work closely with mentors, practicing teachers, administrators, and university faculty to develop the knowledge and skills to enhance learning outcomes for children and youth with and at risk for disabilities. The coursework through the College of Education focuses on teachers' roles in facilitating learning at all levels of development and considers the influences of cultural, political, historical, and economic factors on students, teachers, and schools. Upon successfully completing the initial teacher certification process, the state grants certification in Special Education: Cross Categorical. Practical and rewarding clinical training in schools begins sophomore year, and continues each semester culminating in a full year senior-level teaching internship, enhancing teaching skills and confidence. Students focus on understanding and teaching students with a range of mild and moderate disabilities. Courses within special education address foundational principles of how to teach students with special needs, including methods in mathematics and literacy, behavior management, language, and introduction and methods in cross categorical instruction, among others.

Major Program Requirements

Students must complete all university (http://catalog.missouri.edu/academicdegreerequirements/universityrequirements), general education (http://catalog.missouri.edu/academicdegreerequirements/generaleducationrequirements), and content requirements, in addition to degree requirements. Please meet with an Academic Advisor to discuss degree requirements and to create a semester plan.

As Mizzou Ed continues to implement the new Missouri Standards for the Preparation of Educators mandated by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), curriculum changes will be required that must be met in order to complete your degree and earn teacher certification. Those changes may become effective at any point during your academic program. Therefore, it is extremely important that you DO NOT SELF ADVISE.

Semester Plan

Below is a sample plan of study, semester by semester. A student’s actual plan may vary based on course choices and where options are available.