

Special Education Programs

Program Overview:

As a field special education provides direct and indirect services for individuals with disabilities. Some services provided by people in the field of special education include K-12 education, rehabilitation for occupational development and daily independence, community-based case management, disability advocacy, school and individualized consultation services, and various other services related to individuals with disabilities and their families. Through education, community awareness, and ecologically based service delivery the focus of special education is to enhance and better the lives of all individuals with disabilities.

Success Factors:

Candidates who succeed in Special Education:

Bachelors and Masters

- Demonstrate a history of academic success
- Demonstrate the ability to collaborate with others including those from diverse populations
- Demonstrate leadership characteristics
- Demonstrate responsible, caring, fair, honest, and ethical behavior
- Demonstrate a commitment to social justice and a diverse society
- Demonstrate a history of good critical thinking and problem-solving
- Demonstrate enthusiasm for working with children and adults with disabilities
- Demonstrate a commitment to equity and the betterment of individuals with disabilities

Doctoral (*everything in Bachelors & Masters plus*)

- Demonstrate a desire to work in higher education, hold scholarly leadership, and/or research position
- Demonstrate an interest in being viewed as a leader, mentor, and teacher
- Demonstrate a history of being analytical, inquisitive, and interested in research
- Demonstrate dynamic and self-motivated behavior
- Demonstrate good time management.
- Demonstrate a history of establishing and accomplishing individualized goals

Career Possibilities:

Bachelors and Masters

- Nearly all of our graduates work as Intervention Specialists (Teachers) in various K-12 education settings including schools, hospitals, vocational training facilities,

and other institutions providing educational services for individuals with disabilities

- Students concentrating in Sign Language Interpreting may work as interpreters variety of settings including community and educational.
- A few of our graduates work as advocates and/or case managers for a social agencies

Doctoral Program:

- Nearly all of our graduates work in leadership and faculty positions in higher education.
- A few of our graduates work in leadership and/or research positions with associations, foundations, organizations, and/or governmental departments or agencies.

Major

The Special Education Program at the University of Cincinnati provides education at the bachelors, masters, and doctoral levels. Specific goals of the program vary by degree level. At the baccalaureate and post-baccalaureate levels the program is focused on educating teachers to use evidence-based practices and meet licensure requirements for K-12 Intervention Specialists. Specifically, program participants are required to complete course and field experiences to meet the prerequisites for *Mild to Moderate and Moderate to Intense Disability* licensure. The Sign Language Interpreting specialization focuses on providing the necessary foundation for becoming an interpreter and the ability to meet candidacy requirements for national certification. The master's program is focused on providing teacher-leaders in the area special education. A master's project is required prior to graduation. At the doctoral level the program is focused on providing leading scholars for service in academic careers. The doctoral program has foundational coursework, tailored coursework, and a built-in mentorship experience for research and preparation to work in higher education.

Degree information and outcomes for each program are provided below:

Bachelors: For individuals seeking an undergraduate degree:

- Fulltime 4 years. Two years are required to meet the education requirements as defined by the university for a degree and the state for a teaching licensure. Two years are required to meet specific requirements for special education as defined by the state and other accreditation bodies. This includes a special concentration and passing the Praxis II assessment in two general education content areas (e.g., Mathematics, Reading, Science, and Social Studies).
- Required to apply for entrance to professional cohort during the winter quarter of the sophomore year.
- Successful completion includes a Bachelor degree and teaching licensure (Mild/Moderate and Moderate/Intense) in special education along with highly qualified endorsement in two general education content areas.
- Individuals who are seeking Sign Language Interpreting as their major must apply for entrance into the professional cohort during the winter quarter of their sophomore year.

- Students specializing in Sign Language Interpreting will also be required to meet complete a minimum of one course series: educational interpreting or community interpreting during their junior year.

Sign Language Interpreting Specialization: The University of Cincinnati's Sign Language Interpreting specialization ensures that graduates, who expect to be providing interpreting services in core areas such as community or educational based settings, are able to address content knowledge and skill sets based on the national certifying organization, Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID). The Sign Language Interpreting specialization supports our graduates in preparing for statewide educational interpreting standards as well as national standards for interpreting.

Post-Baccalaureate: For individuals holding teaching licensure in an area other than special education and seeking special education licensure.

- Program is designed to accommodate returning students who are working; coursework is online, field experience required.
- Program includes fulltime coursework to meet licensure requirements
- Provides additional option to enroll in Masters in Special Education
- Successful completion includes teaching licensure in special education

Master's Degree* in Special Education

Master's Online Program (Track 1): For individuals holding a bachelor degree and licensure in an area other than special education.

- Program is designed to accommodate returning students who are working; coursework is online
- Program includes a minimum of 45 credit hours of work (some hours accounted for in licensure program)
- Can be added to licensure option
- Fulltime and part-time Options are available
- Successful completion includes Master degree in Special Education
- Work with a faculty advisor

Master's Degree Cohort Program (Track 2): For individuals holding a bachelor degree in an area other than education.

- Program is designed to include a minimum of 45 credit hours (some hours accounted for in licensure program.)
- This is a full-time program.
- Successful completion includes a master's degree and licensure in both Mild to Moderate and Moderate to Intense disabilities.
- Work with a faculty advisor.
- Space is limited and early application to program is advised.

***Master's Track 3 to prepare individuals for National Board Teaching Certification in Special Education is underdevelopment. Please call for more information.**

Doctorate in Special Education: The Doctoral Program in Special Education prepares students for leadership and faculty positions in higher education.

- The program is focused on producing faculty, researchers, and leaders in the field of special education.
- Nearly 100% our graduates choose to work as faculty in higher-education
- Takes 3-4 years of fulltime study including courses and mentorship
- Successful completion includes a Doctorate in Special Education

Some funding is available for graduate level degrees- contact program chair for more information.

UC Advantages & Special Opportunities

Formed as the Teachers College in 1905, the College of Education, Criminal Justice and Human Services continually merits local, state and national recognition. Recent commendations include:

- Special Education Program was recently ranked 10th in most productive research programs by the *Chronicle of Higher Education*
- UC is one of 96 institutions across the United States ranked as a Level 1 Research Institution (Classification: RU/VH) by the *Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching*
- Accreditation from the *National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education* (NCATE), the organization responsible for professional accreditation of teacher education;
- The College of Education, Criminal Justice, and Human Services (CECH) is recently ranked 78 in *U.S. News & World Report*
- The Best Practice Award from the *American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education* (AACTE); and
- Consistently high scores by candidates on state-mandated licensure exams; our candidates have a 100% pass rate on the Praxis II Licensure Tests.

Admission Information and Application Procedures:

For admissions information and application procedures, please see the documents titled *Application Process for Master's Degree Programs in Teacher Education* and *Application Process for Doctoral Degree Programs in Teacher Education*.

Contact Information:

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