Special Education
(Developmental Cognitive Disabilities)

Admission to Major
Coordinator of Admission to Major. Cheryl Kalakian, 117 Armstrong Hall
Students must submit an unofficial transcript or DARS Report. Transfer students must also submit a copy of their transfer credit evaluation. The following requirements must be met to be admitted to major:
1. Successful completion of at least 30 credits
2. Cumulative minimum G.P.A. of 2.5
3. Successful completion or evidence of potential for successful completion of required General Education Coursework.

Required General Education Course and Credits
CDIS 205 Beginning Sign Language (3 cr.) OR HLTH 210 First Aid and CPR (Goal Area 1: Human Performance)
HLTH 240 Drug Education (3 cr.)
(Goal Area 5: History and the Social & Behavioral Sciences)
MATH 201 Elements of Mathematics I (3 cr.)
(Goal Area 4: Math & Logical Reasoning)

Admission to Pre-Block
Undergraduate DCD Major Coordinator: Ockjean Kim, 313 Armstrong Hall
Once admitted to the Major, students must submit application to the department to determine Pre-Block major class enrollment. Information about the departmental application for admission to Pre-Block major classes can be obtained from the Department of Special Education.

Admission to Professional Education
Coordinator of Admission to Professional Education
Cheryl Kalakian, 117 Armstrong Hall
Students working toward a teaching degree in Developmental Disabilities must be admitted to Professional Education during Pre-block to allow Block I registration.
1. Minimum of 40 earned semester credits;
2. Minimum of 2.75 cumulative G.P.A.;
3. Evidence of completion of the Praxis I: Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST);
4. Complete Writing Assessment Lab
5. Completion of MATH 201, HLTH 240, and CDIS 205 or HLTH 210

Program Continuance. The Special Education Department will monitor block entrance and continuance in program. Students must maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA in Program coursework. A departmental application process will determine block admission.

Admission to Student Teaching. Student teaching at Minnesota State Mankato is a result-oriented, performance-based, 16-week program, requiring the demonstration of an acceptable level of teaching performance in the areas of planning and preparation, enhancing the learning environment, teaching for student learning, and professionalism. Multiple methods of assessment are used and evidence is collected to provide a view of the student teacher’s skills and dispositions. These methods include direct observations of teaching activities by cooperating teachers and University faculty, the use of videotaped lessons and activities for self-assessment, use of logs, participation in on-line activities, and participation in activities reflective of the professional responsibilities of teachers (e.g., parent conferences). The Director of Clinical and Field Experience requests placements for all student teachers in partner districts. Student teachers should not contact schools regarding their placement. Application materials are available in 119 Armstrong Hall.

Admission to the student teaching experience is contingent upon completion of:
1. minimum of 95 semester credits
2. A grade point average of 3.0, grades of “C” or better for all major coursework
3. admittance to Professional Education
4. completion of all methods and professional education course work
5. completion and validation of formal application materials one semester prior to student teaching course (obtain specific dates from 119 Armstrong Hall)
6. attendance at all preliminary student teaching meeting(s)
7. submission of scores on the PRAXIS I (Reading/Writing/Math) test
8. recommendation of advisor
9. approval of placement by school district administration and cooperating teacher, and Director of Clinical and Field Experience, and completion of Minnesota State Police background check materials.

Teacher Licensure Coordinator. Gail Orcutt (118 Armstrong Hall)
The University recommends licensure to a state upon satisfactory completion of a licensure program. However, licensure does not occur automatically through graduation and the awarding of a diploma. Students need to make application for a Minnesota teaching license at the close of the term in which they graduate. The College of Education, 118 Armstrong Hall, coordinates the licensure process. In addition to meeting all program requirements, the (PPST) examination of skills in reading, writing, and mathematics needs to be successfully completed, as well as the Praxis II Pedagogy and Content examinations. Minnesota State Law requires that all candidates applying for initial licensure in this state be fingerprinted for
Application for Graduation. No special departmental activities are required of students in this Major for Graduation. Students must follow the university procedure for application for graduation. See the current Undergraduate Bulletin for the steps in this process and the corresponding timelines.

SPECIAL EDUCATION BS, TEACHING

There are five structured and sequenced semesters in the Major in Special Education, leading to the Bachelor in Science Degree. Each is made of up required courses that meet one or more Minnesota Board of Teaching requirements for Standards of Effective Practice (A), Core Teaching Skills for Special Educators (B), and specific content requirements for Developmental Disabilities (C). The Pre-Block is taken prior to admissions to Professional Education. Continued enrollment in Blocks 1 through 4 is contingent on the academic status of the student. All courses are for 4 credit hours unless noted differently.

Pre-Block Semester (Spring, 2nd/ Sophomore year) (12 credits)
SPED 330 Introduction to Developmental Disabilities
SPED 408 Individuals with Diverse and Exceptional Needs
SPED 409 Learning and Human Development for Diverse Learners

Block 1 Semester (Fall, 3rd/ Junior year) (16 credits)
SPED 410 Assessment, Evaluation, and Individualized Planning for Diverse Learners
SPED 432 Elementary Methods for Teaching Students with Developmental Cognitive Disabilities
SPED 414 Literacy Methods in the Inclusive Classroom: Diverse Learners
SPED 412 Due Process, Planning, and Design of Individual Education Programs

Block 2 Semester (Spring, 3rd/ Junior year) (16 credits)
SPED 448 Behavior Management and Learning Environments for Diverse Learners
SPED 411 Differentiation and Accommodation in the Inclusive Classroom: Diverse Learners
SPED 480 Characteristics and Assessment of Children with Autism
SPED 331 Teaching Students with Physical and Multiple Disabilities

Block 3 Semester (Fall, 4th/ Senior year) (16 credits)
SPED 333 Transition Planning and Secondary Methods for Student with Developmental Cognitive Disabilities
SPED 334 Communication Strategies and Assistive Technologies for Students with Developmental Cognitive Disabilities
SPED 481 Teaching Children with Autism: Planning & Intervention for Students with Autism
SPED 413 Professional Growth and Development for Teachers of Diverse Learners

Block 4 Semester (Spring, 4th/ Senior year) (13 credits)
SPED 458 Seminar: Student Teaching
SPED 459 Student Teaching Developmental Disabilities

Clinical Experiences. A major component of professional education coursework involves clinical experiences in area schools. These experiences are sequential in development. Multiple methods of assessment are used to document competencies. The successful completion of each clinical experience is necessary for progression in the program. All clinical placements are initiated by the Office of Clinical and Field Experience.

Background Checks. Students involved in any clinical experience need to undergo a background check (once per academic year) to assess misdemeanor and felony conviction records maintained at the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. This information is provided to districts for their determination of suitability. The Office of Clinical and Field Experience coordinates the background check process.
SPED 410 (4) Assessment, Evaluation, and Individualized Planning for Diverse Learners
Provides the student learner with the knowledge and skills to assess the individual needs of the student learner and design an educational program based on the assessment information collected. Emphasis will be placed on providing the student learner with the opportunity to learn and administer a variety of norm-referenced and criterion-referenced test instruments and apply test results to developing individual education programs for a variety of learners with diverse educational needs.

SPED 411 (4) Differentiation & Accommodation in an Inclusive Classroom: Diverse Learners
Describes and demonstrates strategies that teachers can use to differentiate the curriculum to meet the needs of special learners in an inclusive classroom. Course will also examine the latest knowledge related to intelligence, creativity, holistic education and classroom differentiation.

SPED 412 (4) Due Process, Planning & Design of the Individual Education Program
Provides student learner with the knowledge and skills to plan, develop, and implement the IEP for a student with DCD. In addition, the student learner will develop an understanding of the alternative dispute processes in the state of Minnesota. The student learner will learn the legal requirements of the IEP process and parental participation including a) how to operate the IEP process, b) conciliation process, c) participation in mediation, and d) due process as outlined in IDEA 1997. Legal issues and requirements will be discussed.

SPED 413 (4) Professional Growth and Development for Teachers of Diverse Learners
Introduces students to methods and strategies for personal and professional growth and development. As a result of taking this course, students will be able to a) engage in reflective inquiry for personal and professional growth, b) identify and demonstrate dispositions necessary for teaching special needs learners, c) understand the cultural, social, and other environmental effects on learning and human development, and d) use strategies for personal and professional growth.

SPED 414 (4) Literary Methods for an Inclusive Classroom: Diverse Learners
Provides an introduction to reading and language arts instruction for special needs and other students in an inclusive classroom. As a result of taking this course, students will be able to plan and implement effective literacy lessons and utilize a variety of differentiation strategies.

SPED 415 (3) Introduction to Talent Development
Students will explore the history, definitions, practices, characteristics, needs, special populations, and models within the field of talent development and gifted education.

SPED 418 (2) Education of Students with Learning Disabilities
This course provides an understanding of the history, identification, assessment, programming, and services needed for students with learning disabilities.

SPED 419 (4) Education of Students with Mild Disabilities
This course is designed to provide students with information on the history, characteristics and definitions of students with mild disabilities (high incidence special education populations) as well as to explore the interventions of teaching students with mild disabilities. Pre: SPED 405

SPED 420 (3) Education of Young Children with Exceptional Needs
Legal, historical, and foundational issues in the education of young children with disabilities as well as characteristics, service needs, and models of service for young children with disabilities with emphasis on young children with moderate/severe disabilities.

SPED 421 (3) Assessment of Young Children with Special Needs
Screening and assessment for placement and programming for infants and young children with disabilities. Includes evaluation an administration of instruments application, assessment information, child progress evaluation, and evaluation of functioning in an environment.

SPED 440 (3) Teaming with Parents and Other Professionals
This course provides a theoretical and practical base for conferencing and collaboration with parents of children and youth with exceptional needs and other professionals in a team construct. Its content includes practical and theoretical understanding of the history and purpose of teaming and application of the Minnesota Graduation Standards Rule.

SPED 444 (4) Behavior Management and Learning Environments for Diverse Learners
Provides the student learner with the knowledge and skills to improve the academic and social/behavioral components of children and youth with diverse learning needs through the use of behavior management techniques. The course will also address the establishment of the learning environment and classroom management techniques, and designing individual behavior management programs.

SPED 458 (2) Seminar: Student Teaching
Focuses on competencies, strategies, issues and trends to prepare the student to teach persons with DCD. Coreq: SPED 449

SPED 459 (11) Student Teaching: Developmental Disabilities
Focuses primarily on educational program development of children with autism as well as the historical treatment of these children. This class will look at current assessment methods used to develop educational programs, and will also explore issues related to advocacy.

SPED 481 (4) Teaching Children w/ Autism: Planning & Intervention for Students w/ Autism
An in-depth look at the characteristics of children with autism as well as the historical treatment of these children. This class will look at current assessment methods used to develop educational programs, and will also explore issues related to advocacy.

SPED 488 (4) Characteristics and Assessment of Children with Autism
Focuses on documenting the university student’s ability to apply the knowledge and skills learned in coursework and teach youth with DCD in the public school. The university student will assess students with DCD, develop individual goals and objectives, design instructional units and lesson plans, implement instruction in the LRE, and evaluate the effectiveness of instructional interventions.

SPED 490 (1-3) Workshop in Special Education
Authentic applications of special education knowledge.

SPED 491 (1-2) In-Service: Special Education
Teaching students with disabilities.

SPED 499 (1-3) Individual Study
Advanced independent study in a specified area.