

**Big  
ideas.**  
Real-world thinking.



**MINNESOTA STATE  
UNIVERSITY**  
MANKATO

## SPECIAL EDUCATION *College of Education*

### WHAT DEGREES AND PROGRAMS ARE OFFERED?

**Academic and Behavioral Strategist – Bachelor of Science  
K-12 Teaching Licensure Program**

### ABOUT OUR PROGRAM

The mission of the Department of Special Education is to prepare quality and principled professionals to educate children and young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders, Developmental Disabilities, Emotional Behavioral Disorders, and Learning Disabilities. Our undergraduate Academic and Behavioral Strategist (ABS) program prepares teachers to teach students with mild/moderate learning disabilities, emotional/behavioral disorders, autism spectrum disorders, and developmental disabilities. Being a special education teacher is an opportunity to have a positive, lasting impact on the lives of children and youth with special needs. Special Education is specially designed instruction that often incorporates related services, to meet the educational, social, emotional, and vocational needs of students with disabilities.

Our ABS bachelor's degree program is offered on our Mankato campus or as an online program. The undergraduate ABS program at the Mankato campus is five semesters long and is a full-time, mostly day-time commitment. The undergraduate ABS online program generally requires two years to complete, with online classes meeting one evening per week, including summer courses. The online program is designed for those working as paraprofessionals during the day. Both programs prepare teacher candidates for Minnesota's K12 ABS license. This cross-categorical license allows teachers to teach students with mild/moderate learning disabilities, emotional/behavioral disorders, autism spectrum disorders, and developmental disabilities. This program prepares new teachers for the classrooms of today where special education teachers often have students with a variety of learning needs.

Students typically apply to the Mankato program during the fall of their sophomore year or apply to the online program prior to completing an Associate's degree or transfer pathway program from a community college. The program runs as a cohort model; all students admitted to a program during a given year go through the program together, following the same sequence of courses.

### CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

There is an increasing demand for special education teachers across the nation. In every state the demand for highly qualified special education teachers exceeds the available supply. Vacancies vary by state, according to the type of special educator needed and the regions within the state. Generally, rural and urban areas have a significant need for licensed teachers across all areas of special education.

Special education requires a wide variety of skills and aptitudes, including a record of strong academic performance; a talent for working with children; organizational and communication skills; the power to influence, motivate and train others; and creativity.

### STUDENT EXPERIENCE/ PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

#### Faculty/student ratio

1:25 in major classes

#### Unique program components

- Learning Communities
- School experiences at different grade levels each semester
- Cohorts and clusters for professional coursework
- A full semester of cooperative student teaching

## Special Education Plan of Study

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Semester (BLOCK I)</b>	
SPED 401: IEP Writing and Professional Practice	4
SPED 408: Individuals with Diverse and Exceptional Needs	4
SPED 409: Learning and Human Development for Diverse Learners	4
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Semester (BLOCK II)</b>	
SPED 448: Behavior Management and Learning Environments for Diverse Learners	4
SPED 410: Assessment, Evaluation, and Individualized Planning for Diverse Learners	4
SPED 411: Effective Strategies for the inclusive classroom	4
SPED 412: Due Process, Planning, and Design of Individual Education Programs	4
School field experience	
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Semester (BLOCK III)</b>	
SPED 404: Instructional Decision Making	4
SPED 414: Literacy Methods in the Inclusive Classroom: Diverse Learners	4
SPED 407: Positive Behavioral Supports	3
SPED 333: Transition Planning and Secondary Methods for Students with Mild and Moderate Disabilities	4
School field experience	
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Semester (BLOCK IV)</b>	
SPED 422: Strategies for Teaching Learners with Special Needs: Math and Science	4
SPED 413: Professional Growth and Development for Teachers of Diverse Learners	4
SPED 406: Strategies for Teaching Learners with Special Needs: Reading and Writing	4
School field experience	
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Semester (BLOCK V)</b>	
SPED 458: Seminar: Student Teaching	4
SPED 459: Student Teaching: Mild and Moderate Disabilities	8

## EXAMINING THE QUALITY OF OUR PROGRAM

### Accreditation

Accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation. Approved by the Minnesota Board of Teaching.

### Faculty

A professional cadre with specialized expertise in multiple disciplines and settings.

## BACKGROUND — HOW DO I PREPARE?

At least three years of high school Math and English, including English Literature and Composition, and at least three years of Science including Chemistry, Astronomy and Geology.

Experiences in tutoring or assisting in diverse settings, including elementary classrooms, camp counselor positions, and after-school programs.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

### College of Education Department of Special Education

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ed.mnsu.edu/sped

You are encouraged to visit the campus.

To arrange a visit, please call:  
Office of Admissions: 507-389-1822  
Toll-free: 800-722-0544

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Safety/Security Programs & Statistics are available at [www.mnsu.edu/safety](http://www.mnsu.edu/safety)  
Placement & Occupational Outlook for Majors are available at [www.mnsu.edu/cdc/](http://www.mnsu.edu/cdc/) (Click on Resources and then Graduate Statistics)



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