

B.A. IN SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDIES

Overview

In the B.A. in Special Education Studies program, students become skilled professionals ready to serve in a high-demand profession. They learn to customize learning experiences and use evidence-based practices to meet individual needs and serve students with compassion in a variety of roles. This program will build their knowledge base and refine their skills to assess and educate students with mild and moderate disabilities.

After completing this program, students are eligible for a Tier 1 or 2 teaching license in the state of Minnesota. Students may then student teach and complete the student teaching seminar as a post-baccalaureate or graduate student to be eligible for a MN tier 3 special education teaching license. They will also be able to add additional licenses to serve students in several disability categories. Bethel offers stackable licenses in Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), Developmental Disabilities (DD), and Emotional and Behavioral Disorders (EBD).

Students graduating with a Bachelors of Arts degree in Special Education Studies will be able to:

- Develop habits of self-directed, lifelong learning in order to navigate the evolving field of special education.
- Utilize critical thinking and data-based decision making in the implementation of appropriate special education programming.
- Apply ethical principles to the profession of special education.
- Demonstrate effective collaboration skills to use with K-12 public schools, families, and outside agencies.
- Recognize the complexities of a diverse society, historic and current systems that marginalize individuals, and the impact/influence of personal identity in order to provide equitable delivery of special education services.
- Integrate a Christian perspective and personal values with the professional practice of special education.
- Satisfactorily meet required special education state standards.
- Write effectively to communicate with all stakeholders, including an academic audience.

Admission Requirements

The Special Education Studies major will consider applicants who:

- Meet the general requirements (<https://catalog.bethel.edu/adult-professional-studies/admission/general-requirements-admission-caps/>) for admission to the College of Adult and Professional Studies.
- Have a combined cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale on previous academic work.
- Have a transcript evaluation completed to determine which, if any, outstanding course requirements or needed credits must be fulfilled.

Students who have not achieved the minimum GPA, grade standards, or other assessment criteria may still apply to be considered for provisional acceptance. See *Admission Categories*.

Degree Requirements

The required curriculum for the B.A. Special Education Studies major comprises a 53 semester credit sequence of courses intended to be taken consecutively throughout the calendar year. For course sequence, request an academic plan from the College of Adult & Professional Studies. ENGL 225R, or an equivalent transfer, is a program prerequisite and must be completed before taking the below courses.

Code	Title	Credits
TEAC 395	School-Wide Field Experience	2
TEAC 521	Foundations of Education	2
TEAC 524	Educational Psychology	4
TEAC 526	General Methods of Instruction	4
TEAC 528	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Education	4
SPED 205	Introduction to Special Education	2
SPED 309	Introduction to Academic and Behavior Support	4
SPED 322	Teaching Reading (including field experience)	4
SPED 401	Characteristics of Students with Mild-Moderate Disabilities (and Field Experience)	4
SPED 410	Norm-Referenced Assessment	4
SPED 470	Assessment Field Experience	1
SPED 418	Instructional Strategies for Students with Mild-Moderate Disabilities	4
SPED 432	Responsive Intervention and Assessment	4
SPED 442	Introduction to Student Mental Health and Systems of Comprehensive Support	4
SPED 454	Classroom-based Assessment	2
SPED 474	Consultation and Collaboration in Programming for Students with Disabilities	4
Special Education Studies Major Total		53
General Education, Core Distinctive, and Elective Courses *		69
Total Credits		122

* Elective Credits can include credits transferred from prior degrees and institutions.