

School of Teacher Education and Leadership Special Education



At the undergraduate level, the Special Education program area provides both pre-licensure options and licensure programs through the Interdisciplinary Studies Degree (IDS). Students seeking to teach in Special Education major in IDS and select one of the following specialty area options:

- * Early Childhood/Early Childhood Special Education (IDEC, a 4-year pre-licensure option with a 5th year leading to licensure and a Masters)
- * Deaf and Hard of Hearing (IDHH, a 4-year licensure program)
- * General Curriculum- for learners with Emotional/Behavioral Disorders, Learning Disabilities, and Intellectual Disabilities (IDSP, a 4-year pre-licensure option with a 5th year leading to licensure and a Masters)

Career opportunities available to graduates of the Interdisciplinary Studies degree include positions as early intervention specialists and preschool, elementary, middle, and high school teachers of students with disabilities. Graduates may be employed in public or private schools, and non-profit organizations providing educational services to individuals with disabilities.

Students should possess good skills in communication; problem solving and analysis; self-awareness, self-confidence; initiative, reliability, and persistence; and the ability to work alone and as a part of a collaborative team.

Students begin their special education courses by enrolling in EDSP 361: Current Trends in Education for Exceptional Individuals or EDSP 360: Introduction to Early Childhood Special Education. These classes provide an overview of the characteristics and needs of students with disabilities.

Students must be admitted to the Teacher Education Program. The program requires a grade point average of 2.50 for entry and continuation in the program and passing scores on Praxis I exams and Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment.

Students are placed in classrooms for at least two semesters while taking their professional special education classes during their junior, senior or graduate year. Students in the 4-year licensure options complete a field experience in the fall and full-time student teaching during the spring in their senior year. Students in the 5-year program complete field experiences in the fall and spring semesters of their senior year and half-time internships (IDEC students are full-time) in the fall and spring of their graduate year.

Students pursuing a special education program can be eligible to receive funding through the TEACH Grant. Students must have a 3.25 GPA and be admitted to the RU teacher education program. Details on the TEACH Grant can be found on the RU Financial Aid website at: <http://finaid.asp.radford.edu/teach.html>.

For more information contact:

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- Deaf/Hard of Hearing: Ms. Ellen Austin, ebaustin@radford.edu
- Early Childhood Education/Early Childhood Special Ed:
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