

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION AND SPECIAL EDUCATION, BSE

The Elementary Education and Special Education (EESE) program is a unique opportunity for students to pursue licensure in both Elementary Education and Special Education. Successful graduates of the program are certified in general education at the grade levels of K-9 (including eligibility for 4K), and Special Education in grades K-12 (through age 21). Students graduate to a wide range of opportunities in both general and special education classrooms.

The Department of Rehabilitation Psychology and Special Education has a long-standing mission of preparing future leaders who actively improve the lives of people with disabilities. The EESE program is designed to prepare future educators who will promote equity, inclusivity and accessibility within both general and special education classrooms. Graduates of this program are equipped to create inclusive learning environments where they will holistically identify and address biases and barriers to learning, and strive to meet the needs of all students.

The Elementary Education and Special Education program is a rigorous four-semester course sequence that includes coursework, practicum and student teaching experiences. Courses include teaching methods in general education classrooms, implementing instructional strategies for helping students with a variety of abilities succeed, creating individualized education programs, as well as assessing learning needs in all core academic areas.

In addition to coursework, students will have hands-on practical experiences in both general and special education classrooms across a range of ages. Students are placed in one general education practicum and student teaching placement along with one special education practicum and student teaching placement, providing them with all the practical experience they need to successfully teach in a K-9 general education classroom or K-12 special education classroom. Students will learn to effectively work with a diverse student population and to create learning environments that foster academic success and social-emotional development for all students.

THE TEACHER PLEDGE

The School of Education at UW-Madison currently offers a unique financial opportunity for students in the Elementary Education and Special Education program called The Teacher Pledge (<https://tec.education.wisc.edu/teacher-pledge/>). The school pledges to pay the equivalent of in-state tuition and fees for all teacher education students. In return, students pledge to work at a Wisconsin PreK-12 school for three to four years after graduation.