The Department of Rehabilitation Psychology and Special Education uniquely prepares personnel to support and advocate for the education and/or rehabilitation of people of all ages with disabilities. Special education and rehabilitation psychology are intrinsically related, both in basic objectives and in professional education and research. Instruction and research emphasize educational and behavioral assessment, treatment, and inclusion of children, as well as counseling, assessment, case management, advocacy, and job placement with adults to facilitate improved personal, social, and vocational adjustment.

Targeted populations encompassed by the program include adults and children with physical, emotional, intellectual and/or learning disabilities, traumatic brain injuries, alcohol and other drug abuse, and persons involved with the criminal justice system.

Three undergraduate programs are currently available:

- A pre-professional undergraduate program in Rehabilitation Psychology (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/rehabilitation-psychology-special-education/rehabilitation-psychology-bse/).
- Special Education (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/rehabilitation-psychology-special-education/special-education-bse/), with certification options for three age groups:
  - Kindergarten-Grade 12 (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/rehabilitation-psychology-special-education-special-education-cross-categorical-K-12-bse/)
  - Birth-Grade 3 (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/rehabilitation-psychology-special-education-special-education-early-childhood-special-education-birth-grade-3-bse/)
  - Birth-Grade 12 (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/rehabilitation-psychology-special-education-special-education-special-education-dual-certification-birth-grade-12-bse/)
- A Special Education/Elementary Education dual major (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/curriculum-instruction/elementary-education-bse/elementary-education-middle-childhood-through-early-adolescence-special-education-dual-cert-bse/) is offered jointly with the Department of Curriculum and Instruction.

The Disability Rights and Services Certificate (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/rehabilitation-psychology-special-education/disability-rights-services-certificate/) may be completed by students pursuing other majors on campus.

New Certification Options Starting in fall 2022!

Pending approval from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI), the department is thrilled to provide two new program options students may pursue to complete the bachelor of science in education (BSE) degree in special education. These options are available with fall 2022 program admission.

The first program option will prepare educators and interventionists to support young children with disabilities, and their families. This program, Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE), will lead to certification in ECSE ages birth-Grade 3.

The second program option will prepare educators to support the needs of students with disabilities ages birth through Grade 12. This program is a dual certification option wherein students complete both the ECSE program and the Special Education Cross-Categorical program. Both new program options require four semesters of professional coursework and include multiple field experiences in local educational settings and schools.