

SPECIAL EDUCATION, BSE

WISCONSIN EXPERIENCE

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UW–Madison’s vision for the total student experience, the Wisconsin Experience (<https://wisconsinexperience.wisc.edu/about/>), combines learning in and out of the classroom. Tied to the Wisconsin Idea (<https://www.wisc.edu/wisconsin-idea/>) and steeped in long-standing institutional values—the commitment to the truth, shared participation in decision-making, and service to local and global communities—the Wisconsin Experience describes how students develop and integrate these core values across their educational experience.

UW–Madison encourages students to mindfully engage in four core concepts throughout their time on campus: Empathy & Humility, Relentless Curiosity, Intellectual Confidence, and Purposeful Action (<https://wisconsinexperience.wisc.edu/intellectual-confidence/>).

Since its inception the School of Education has embraced the concepts of the Wisconsin Experience, providing opportunities for students to learn in venues beyond the traditional classroom. Our students also independently seek out related activities and experiences, thus creating their own unique Wisconsin Experience.

SPECIAL EDUCATION AND THE WISCONSIN EXPERIENCE

Community-Based Learning - RP & SE 300 Individuals with Disabilities includes a field-based experience where students engage in work that directly or indirectly supports a person with a disability. Hundreds of student each year are placed in a wide variety of placement sites (https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gXUjnpFCgJdWTMVyLFIRTQCE4s9ipFsXYtz_K50oCM/edit?usp=sharing) in the Madison area. This experience allows students to gain first-hand knowledge of the contributions of, and services provided to, individuals with disabilities within the community.

Guest Speakers - RP & SE 300 also brings the community into the classroom. A number of guest speakers from the community provide insight regarding the range of experiences people with disabilities have while conducting their daily lives. Students also learn about the variety of community organizations engaged in the support of, and advocacy for, people with disabilities.

A wide variety of guest speakers attend Special Education's practicum and student teaching seminars. This can include school district personnel, parents and family members, teachers, and individuals with disabilities.

Field Experiences - Students in our teacher education programs have multiple field experiences in local schools during their professional sequence. A Community Based Asset Mapping exercise asks students to explore the strengths and assets of the communities in which their field placement school resides.

Clubs and Organizations - Our students are active participants in many clubs and organizations, including Special Olympics, Aspiring Educators, and Camp Kesem.