

THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

The ECU College of Education is the largest professional school for teacher education in the region. East Carolina University began as a teacher training school and has a proud heritage shared by faculty, staff, and administration. We continue to be innovative in preparing teachers for today's—and tomorrow's—classrooms. See more of the many programs and scholarships we offer at www.ecu.edu/cs-educ/.

JOURNAL OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

The Department of Curriculum and Instruction houses an exciting new peer-reviewed electronic journal that provides a forum for the dissemination of articles focused on research, practice, and related issues relevant to teaching and learning in pre-K–12 environments. Visit www.ecu.edu/educ/JoCI for more information.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Program area Web site: www.ecu.edu/cs-educ/ci/sped/Index.cfm

PROGRAM AREA COORDINATOR

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Tomorrow starts here.

East Carolina University is committed to equality of educational opportunity and does not discriminate against applicants, students, or employees based on race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, creed, sexual orientation, or disability. An equal opportunity/affirmative action university, which accommodates the needs of individuals with disabilities.

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East Carolina University



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COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
Special Education Program Area
Department of Curriculum and Instruction

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM AREA DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Do you feel called to teach? Do you seek a fulfilling career you are excited about, a career through which you make a real difference in the lives of people with special needs?

Come to East Carolina University.

The special education program at East Carolina offers a rich combination of mentoring and course work coupled with extensive field-based practices to prepare you to teach students with special learning needs. You will benefit from learning in your methods courses along with early and ongoing field-based practicum courses. In the practicum courses, you will work closely with master teachers and university supervisors. That extensive educational experience means you will be empowered with the theory and the practice that will make you an expert in your field.

Through a variety of graduate and undergraduate degree and license opportunities, delivered both on campus and through distance education, the special education program at ECU serves a diverse group of students across the state.

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE

The BS in special education (SPED) requires 128 semester hours of foundations curriculum and professional courses, with an emphasis on effective teaching practices, authentic assessment, technology integration, and serving students with diverse learning needs and backgrounds.

On-Campus Opportunities: If you decide to pursue a BS in special education, you choose from two initial noncategorical licensure options.

- The general curriculum (GC) license option prepares you to work with children with disabilities who are learning in the general education curriculum model while pursuing a high school diploma. If you select this degree strand, you also complete the requirements to be recommended for a North Carolina license in reading education.
- The adapted curriculum (AC) license option prepares you to work with children with low-incidence disabilities who are learning in a curriculum model that extends and adapts the general curriculum to individual learning needs and goals. This degree strand provides an interdisciplinary model including courses in areas such as communication, adapted physical education, occupational therapy, recreational therapy, and rehabilitation services.

Community College Partnership Opportunities: The program of special education participates with Wachovia Partnership East in a collaboration with community colleges to offer the general curriculum special education degree to four hub sites in eastern North Carolina—Wayne Community College, Nash Community College, Craven Community College, and the Virtual Hub Site—that serve students across the state. If you are interested in earning a special education degree via distance education, you can complete an associate degree at a local community college and then complete the remainder of the program delivered from ECU faculty at one of these community college sites. All students participating in Wachovia Partnership East receive the same high-quality program as those students on campus, delivered in an alternative method.

GRADUATE DEGREE

The MAEd program in special education is the only totally online accredited program in the state. The 39-semester-hour special education MAEd program is designed for you to take graduate courses part time while continuing to work in your local community. The part-time program generally takes two years to complete, but you do have the option of full-time graduate studies. All MAEd students are required to complete a series of core courses, followed by additional course work provided in your choice of four categorical areas:

- Mental retardation
- Learning disabilities
- Behavioral/emotional disabilities
- Low-incidence disabilities

GRADUATE CERTIFICATES AND LICENSES

- The **assistive technology graduate certificate program** is built upon a partnership between the special education program area and the Department of Occupational Therapy. The 12-hour online certificate may be pursued as part of a master's program or independent as a nondegree graduate program.
- The **autism graduate certificate program** offers an innovative online opportunity to learn more about the unique educational needs of individuals with autism and autism spectrum disorder. The 12-hour certificate program focuses on research-based strategies and interventions in identification, instruction, and communication.
- The **academically gifted licensure program** is offered in collaboration with the elementary education program at ECU to prepare you to work with students identified as academically gifted.

LICENSURE

If you have a degree from an accredited four-year university, you are eligible to enroll in the licensure-only programs as a nondegree graduate student. Many classes are offered online and late in the day, enabling you to take classes at your own pace and from off-campus sites. For a complete overview of our licensure programs, please see our Web site (www.ecu.edu/cs-educ/ci/Index.cfm) and visit the Graduate School Web site for application information at www.ecu.edu/gradschool/.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The ECU Student Council for Exceptional Children (SCEC) connects candidates with a common interest in teaching students with special learning needs and who are also interested in serving these individuals the university and local community. SCEC is a chapter of the Council for Exceptional Children, a national organization that is dedicated to improving the educational experience for children with exceptionalities. The EDUCATE student organization focuses on the unique needs and interests of multicultural preservice learners.

ADVISING AND MENTORING

The College of Education Advising Center provides information and guidance from orientation to graduation to students in all program areas in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. Furthermore, mentoring is a strong focus for both graduate and undergraduate special education programs, and you (whether you are a student on or off campus) become a member of cohort groups designed to connect you to other students and program faculty members.