Department of Special Education

The Department of Special Education prepares teachers to work with children who have emotional and behavioral disabilities, mental retardation, and specific learning disabilities. The undergraduate program is a state-approved program that leads to certification in Varying Exceptionalities.

Students are required to meet University and College of Education entrance requirements prior to enrollment in the Department. Upon admission, students affiliate with the campus on which they wish to take their program of studies. Students may not register for courses on other campuses without permission. On the Tampa Campus, students are assigned to teams. All courses are taken with the assigned team. Since no teams start in the summer, there are no summer admissions. The program sequence includes three semesters of part-time field experience and one semester of full-day internship. All part-time field experiences must be successfully completed as a member of a team concurrently enrolled in a specified course in designated local schools. Final internships are assigned only to designated school districts where partnerships exist. Field experiences begin during the first semester of a student’s enrollment with increasing involvement throughout the program. Students are responsible for providing transportation to their experience sites.

Prerequisites (State Mandated Common Prerequisites):

These prerequisites must be met by transfer students as well as USF students. A grade of “C” is the minimum acceptable grade.

- EDF X005 Introduction to Education 3
- EDG 2701 Teaching Diverse Populations 3
- EME 2040 Introduction to Educational Technology* 3

*equivalent course or demonstrated competency may be substituted

In addition to EDG 2701, lower division courses must include 6 credit hours with an international or diversity focus (see list of approved courses under “Preliminary Requirements for Students entering Teacher Education Programs” on the first page of the College of Education section). Professional education courses taken at the community college will transfer as general electives.

Students must also take courses in the following areas, which may meet General Education Requirements as well as fulfill Prerequisites:

- Nine (9) semester hours in English to include writing, literature, and speech
- Nine (9) semester hours in science to include earth science, life science, and physical science, with a minimum of one associated laboratory
- Nine (9) semester hours in mathematics to include college algebra or above and geometry
- Twelve (12) semester hours in social sciences to include American history and general psychology
- Six (6) semester hours in the humanities, including philosophy and fine arts

Professional Education Core (29 cr. hrs.):

The required courses in the professional education core are as follows:

- EDF 3122 Learning and the Developing Child 3
- or
- EDF 3214 Human Development and Learning 3
- EDF 3604 Social Foundations of Education (Exit) 3
- EDF 4620 Curriculum and Instruction 3
- EDF 4430 Measurement for Teachers 3
- FLE 4315 Teaching LEP Students K-12 3
- FLE 4316 Language Principles and Acquisition 2
- EEX 4940 Internship: Exceptional Student Education 9
- EEX 4936 Senior Seminar in Exceptional Student Education 2

Area of Specialization

Varying Exceptionalities (BPX)

Students seeking the B. S. degree with certification in Varying Exceptionalities are required to take the following courses:

- EEX 4941 Undergraduate Supervised Practicum 1-6
- EEX 4011 Foundations of Special Education 3
- EEX 4054 Perspectives on Learning and Behavioral Disorders 3
- EEX 4221 Educational Assessment of Exceptional Students 3
- EEX 4243 Education of the Exceptional Adolescent and Adult 3
- EEX 4604 Behavior Management for Special Needs and at Risk Students 3
- EEX 4742 Narrative Perspectives on Exceptionality: Cultural and Ethical Issues (Exit) 3
- EEX 4846 Clinical Teaching in Special Education 3
- EME 4011 Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities 3
- LAE 4416 Teaching Literature and Writing in the Elementary Grades 3
- MAE 4310 Teaching Elementary School Mathematics I 3
- RED 4310 Early Literacy Learning 3
- RED 4511 Literacy in the Intermediate and Middle Grades 3