College of Education
Special Education

Overview
The mission of K-State's special education program is to "prepare knowledgeable, ethical and caring decision-makers" for students with special educational needs. We prepare specialists to serve students and families with specific educational needs through assessment and intervention, leadership and collaboration, and clinical application, research and practice.

Special education is a great fit for those who believe all individuals have the right to grow and learn, regardless of why they are different and how difficult it may be to meet all their needs. Important focuses of this program include understanding others, valuing individual differences and creating opportunities for all to succeed.

Although special education requires more than an undergraduate degree, several courses can be taken before graduation.

Professional options
Careers
The need for special education personnel has expanded rapidly within the last decade. Career opportunities abound for those who want to work either directly or indirectly with exceptional individuals. Careers that allow direct contact with exceptional children, youth and adults include:

- Teachers at preschool, elementary, secondary or postsecondary levels
- Aides, paraprofessionals and teacher assistants
- Therapists, counselors, social workers and speech clinicians
- Administrators and staff of public, private and residential schools, hospitals, state institutions, day care centers, community developmental disability organizations, adult group homes and community recreation facilities
- QuickStart Provisional Endorsement: Beginning the junior year, elementary education students who want to teach special education can complete the required special educational coursework and then dual-student teach with a practicum colloquium. Alternatively, students who want a strong background in special education but are not seeking special education endorsement can take 15 hours of special education courses.

- StepAhead Provisional Endorsement: Secondary education students who wish to have a special education background may choose this option. Students will begin teaching special education before completing the full licensure program by completing the required special education coursework and student teaching with a special education practicum.

Many other careers exist for those who wish to have a supporting role in service to exceptional children, youth and adults. Some of these opportunities:

- College teachers
- Curriculum developers
- Counselors
- Consultants to classroom teachers
- Researchers
- Designers, producers and manufacturers of adaptive equipment
- State and federal agency staff

Special education refers to services provided by schools and other institutions of learning and development for students with exceptional needs. These students might have learning disabilities, intellectual disabilities, emotional/behavioral disorders, autistic spectrum disorders and/or physical or sensory disabilities.

Professionals in this field might be called upon to:

- Assist students with intellectual disabilities as they prepare for a satisfying adult life.
- Enable students who are emotionally withdrawn to interact positively with classmates and teachers.
- Help students who are intelligent, but are having problems with basic skills, succeed in schoolwork.

Academics
Degree options
Some students may desire to take courses that apply toward a special education concentration. An area of concentration consists of 15 hours of coursework that allows you to become more familiar with a specific field. Taking a certain sequences of courses in the special education area of concentration results in provisional endorsement, allowing students to teach in a special education position while completing full endorsement. Education students at K-State have two options for endorsement:

- QuickStart Provisional Endorsement: Beginning the junior year, elementary education students who want to teach special education can complete the required special educational coursework and then dual-student teach with a practicum colloquium. Alternatively, students who want a strong background in special education but are not seeking special education endorsement can take 15 hours of special education courses.

- StepAhead Provisional Endorsement: Secondary education students who wish to have a special education background may choose this option. Students will begin teaching special education before completing the full licensure program by completing the required special education coursework and student teaching with a special education practicum.

Although the endorsement can be earned without completing a master's degree, most students choose to work toward that degree while completing licensure requirements.

Points of pride
One hundred percent of Kansas State University’s QuickStart Provisional Endorsement graduates are employed. Students are able to strengthen their special education background and employment opportunities through one of two endorsement programs.

k-state.edu/admissions/academics
Preparation
K-State programs are focused on areas of exceptionality that have a high incidence in public schools and emphasize elementary and secondary application rather than institutional or clinical services. Special education programs at K-State serve three purposes:
- To prepare undergraduate education students for working with exceptional students in the general education classroom.
- To prepare teachers at the graduate level for teaching exceptional children and youth in special education programs.
- To prepare personnel for special education administration and/or coordination of special education programs.

Admissions
Requirements
Incoming students apply to the university through the general university admission application. Students may apply online at k-state.edu/admissions/apply.

All education majors in Kansas are required to take one survey course in special education, but many students elect to take more.

The Kansas Department of Education prescribes the requirements for all special education endorsements within the state. K-State’s College of Education works within the state guidelines to develop endorsement programs.

For more information about special education, contact:
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coe.k-state.edu/departments/secsa

For more information about Kansas State University, contact:
Office of Admissions
Kansas State University
119 Anderson Hall
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Manhattan, KS 66506-0102
1-800-432-8270 (toll free) or
785-532-6250
k-state@k-state.edu
k-state.edu/admissions

Notice of nondiscrimination
Kansas State University prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex (including sexual harassment and sexual violence), sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age, ancestry, disability, genetic information, military status, or veteran status, in the University’s programs and activities as required by applicable laws and regulations. The person designated with responsibility for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning nondiscrimination policies is the University’s Title IX Coordinator: the Director of the Office of Institutional Equity, equity@k-state.edu, 103 Edwards Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas 66506, (785) 532-6220. The campus ADA Coordinator is the Director of Employee Relations, charlott@k-state.edu, who may be reached at 103 Edwards Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas 66506, (785) 532-6277.

Post-Graduation Statistics
k-state.edu/postgrad-stats
ksdegreestats.org