

# BACHELOR OF ARTS IN COMBINED SPECIAL EDUCATION AND ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

## OVERVIEW

Lewis University's College of Education prides itself on its motto, "Developing Learning Communities." To make that motto a reality, the College of Education is dedicated to preparing outstanding teachers, supervisors, and administrators for public, Catholic and other private schools.

Teacher preparation at Lewis is designed to utilize talent from all departments of the University and from the public and private elementary, middle and high schools of the community. Concerned faculty members take each student's education personally, and are committed to assisting students in reaching their education career goals. Courses of study include sequences in general education, professional education, the student's area of concentration and field experience approved by the State Teacher Certification Board.

## HIGHLIGHTS

The College of Education at Lewis has earned NCATE (National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education) accreditation. The Combined Special Education/ Elementary Education program offers students one-on-one advising, personal attention, field experience and student teaching placements in area schools, and endowed scholarship opportunities.

The Gladys M. Meehan Endowed Scholarship is awarded to students who are preparing for their initial teaching certification. The scholarship is named in honor of a woman who fulfilled her lifelong dream of becoming a teacher at the age of 50. Gladys Meehan went on to devote 15 years as a fourth grade teacher in a Chicago parochial school. Established in 1997 by her family, the Gladys M. Meehan Endowed Scholarship has benefited more than 10 Lewis University students.

## REQUIREMENT

Note: It is required that all students must successfully pass the State of Illinois Basic Skills test, have a minimum 2.75 GPA and 29 credit hours before they will be allowed to take education courses.

## STUDENT TEACHING

Student teaching in the combined major requires students to complete two eight-week placements: one in a regular elementary education setting (K-6) and one in a secondary (7-12) special education setting. Application for admission to student teaching must be filed by September 15 of the year prior to the student teaching experience. Procedures and requirements for admission to student teaching are published in the College of Education's Guide for Initial Teacher Certification Program Candidates. This publication is available in the College of Education office. Evidence of successful completion of the appropriate State of Illinois tests in the content areas and the Assessment of Professional Teaching test must be received in the College of Education prior to the beginning of the student teaching semester in order to be allowed to student teach. Students are responsible for providing their own transportation to clinical and student teaching sites. Only one additional course may be taken concurrently with student teaching. Official documentation of a negative TB test must be filed prior to student teaching.

## CONTACT

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## BACHELOR OF ARTS / COMBINED SPECIAL EDUCATION AND ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Total Credit Hours: 128

Major Credit Hours: 60

### I. Professional Education Courses for Initial Special Education (K-12) Certification in Special Education - Learning Behavior Specialist I and Initial Elementary (K-9) Education Certification. This is a COMBINED major and does not result in two degrees.

- 05-240 Instructional Methods, K-9, with Elementary Field Experience I (25 hrs.) (3)
- 05-300 Elem. Field Experience II (50 hrs.) (1)
- 55-321 Curriculum and Instruction in the Middle School (3)
- 54-xxx Classroom and Behavior Management Strategies for All Learners (2)
- 05-409 Child and Adolescent Literature (3)
- 54-304 Technology for Teaching and Learning (3)
- 53-360 History and Philosophy of Education (3)
- 54-207 Learning Theories and Individual Development (3)
- 54-242 Foundations of Teaching and Learning (25 field experience hrs.) (3)
- 54-303 Development and Characteristics of Learners (3)
- 54-329 Approaches and Applications for the Multicultural Classroom (1)
- 54-340 Instructional Strategies and Learning Communities for Teaching Science and Wellness, PreK-12 (3)
- 54-352 Instructional Strategies and Learning Communities for Teaching Mathematics, PreK-12 (3)
- 54-353 Instructional Strategies and Learning Communities for Teaching Reading and the Integrated Language Arts, PreK-3 (3)
- 54-354 Instructional Strategies and Learning Communities for Teaching Social Studies, PreK-12 (3)
- 54-359 Assessment for Learning (3)
- 54-366 Special Education Law (1)
- 54-391 Instructional Planning and Performance Based Assessment (3)
- 54-400 Special Education Field Experience III (50 hrs.) (1)
- 54-471 Instructional Strategies and Learning Communities for Teaching Reading and the Integrated Language Arts, 4-12 (3)
- 05-484 SPED/ELED Student Teaching (9)

*(Students complete eight weeks at an elementary site and eight weeks at a secondary special education site.)*

*Also recommended: Workshops in computers and teaching multicultural populations, gifted students and at-risk students.*

### II. Advanced Writing: (05-484) SPED/ELED Student Teaching fulfills the advanced writing requirement for majors.

### III. Combined Special Education/Elementary Education majors are required to complete an 18-hour concentration in an academic area. Some of the 18 hours may count toward the General Education requirements.

### IV. Students complete an extensive set of field experiences as part of the combined major. They will complete 75 field experience hours for the Elementary Education component and 75 field experience hours for the Special Education component. Assignment to these sites is arranged by the College of Education. Experiences are designed to include public and private school assignments, as well as primary, intermediate, middle and secondary school experiences. Students are responsible for providing their own transportation to and from student teaching.

*Field experience hours completed at other institutions will be evaluated by the Department Chair to determine the number of hours transferred. Students may be required to enroll in a field experience course (Field Experience in Special Education) (54-305) (1) in order to complete the required number of field experience hours.*