

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN SPECIAL 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 Special Education career goals. Courses of study include sequences in general education, professional education 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 Special Education program offers students one-on-one advising, personal attention, field experiences 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.

CONTACT

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BACHELOR OF ARTS / SPECIAL EDUCATION

Total Credit Hours: 128

Major Credit Hours: 51

I. Professional Education Courses for Special Education (PreK-12) Certification in Special Education - Learning Behavior Specialist I

- 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 hours) (3)
- 54-300 Special Education Field Experience II
(50 hrs.) (1)
- 54-303 Development and Characteristics of Learners (3)
- 54-329 Approaches and Applications for the
Multicultural Classroom (1)
- 54-xxx Classroom and Behavioral Management Strategies
for All Learners (2)
- 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 (1)
- 54-471 Instructional Strategies and Learning
Communities for Teaching Reading and the
Integrated Language Arts, 4-12 (3)
- 54-483 Special Education Student Teaching
(two eight-week placements) (9)

II. Recommended Electives for Special Education

- 54-202 Sign Language I (3)
- 54-203 Sign Language II (3)

Also recommended: Workshops focusing on teaching multicultural populations, autism, engaged learning and action research.

III. **Advanced Writing: Special Education Student Teaching (54-483) fulfills the advanced writing requirement for majors.**

IV. **Students complete 125 hours of field experience as part of the coursework in the Special Education Program.** Field experience courses include: Foundations of Teaching and Learning (54-242), Special Education Field Experience II (54-300) (50 hrs.) and Special Education Field Experience III (54-400) (50 hrs.). Assignment to these sites is arranged by the College of Education. Experiences are designed to include public and private school sites, with a variety of experiences in integrated and segregated special education programs in both elementary and secondary settings. Students are responsible for providing their own transportation to these sites. Field experience hours completed at other institutions will be evaluated by the Department Chair to determine whether or not the hours can be transferred.

STUDENT TEACHING

Application for admission to Special Education 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 on the College of Education Blackboard site. Evidence of successful completion of the appropriate State of Illinois test in the content area 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 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.