

Special Education | Bachelor of Science

ACCREDITED BY
THE NATIONAL COUNCIL
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OF TEACHER EDUCATION
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PREPARATION

The Department of Special Education prepares students for challenging and extremely rewarding careers as special education teachers, who will make a significant, life-long difference in the lives of individuals with exceptionalities.

PROGRAM FEATURES | COMPREHENSIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION K-12

The Special Education Comprehensive Program prepares students to teach K-12 learners with a broad range of exceptionalities, including learning disabilities, intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorders, emotional and behavioral disorders, physical and sensory disabilities, and other health impairments. Special education majors are trained to develop and implement effective individualized educational programs that enable K-12 learners with disabilities to develop essential competencies to succeed in areas of academics, socialization, behavior and communication, independent living, employment, and community participation. Special education teachers use their expertise to provide specialized instruction and behavioral support in collaboration with other school professionals and families. Students gain invaluable experience through multiple fieldwork opportunities incorporated into the program coursework. The department supports a student chapter of the Council for Exceptional Children and provides additional opportunities for students to build instructional and leadership skills through participation in local, state and national conferences and volunteer experiences to support individuals with exceptionalities on campus and local special education communities. Students complete two full-time student teaching experiences at the elementary and secondary levels in their final semester of the program.

SPECIAL-ELEMENTARY EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE

The Collaborative Special Education/Elementary Education program is a unique program that prepares students for dual certification in Special Education, grades K-12 and Elementary Education, grades 1-6. The program provides students with a competitive advantage when searching for jobs and more flexibility throughout their careers as they are prepared to work with a wide variety of students. Students have multiple fieldwork opportunities to interact and instruct learners with and without disabilities in individual, in small group and whole classroom educational settings. Students in this program also complete two student teaching experiences – one in a special education setting and one in general education setting. Students in this program are required to have a second major, usually interdisciplinary studies (IDS), to expand general education content knowledge and fulfill state teaching requirements for elementary education.

For more information on program requirements, visit Catalog.SouthernCT.edu/undergraduate



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The job outlook for graduates of our program is excellent. Our programs prepare students for certification as K-12 special education teachers or dually certified special and elementary education teachers. Southern students are in high demand because of their excellent preparation to instruct and support students with a wide range of strengths and challenges. Currently, there is a shortage of qualified special education teachers in the state and Connecticut teacher salaries are among the highest in the U.S.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Undergraduate Admissions Office
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SouthernCT.edu/admissions/undergraduate

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