

POLICY AND PROCEDURES: Admission to Special Education
ADOPTION DATE: March 1998 (revised August 2021)

First Bachelor students are admitted to Utah State University as a pre-Special Education Major. When they are admitted they are assigned an advisor in the Special Education and Rehabilitation Department. Students are encouraged to contact the Special Education Advisor whenever there are questions about career opportunities, class selection, the admissions process and student teaching.

New students meet with the advisor in person during [USU Orientation](#). Students are encouraged to make an appointment during their first semester with the Special Education Advisor to plan out a college program.

Course Requirements

Students may apply to the Special Education major and the College of Education (joint application) when they complete the following requirements:

- Complete ENGL 1010 with a grade of C+ or better.
- Complete Math 1050 or 1051 with a grade of C or higher
- Complete Math 2010 or 2020 with a grade of C or higher (Birth to Five students do not take Math 2010/2020).
- Complete Breadth American Institutions with a grade of C or better.
- Complete Breadth Life Science with a grade of C or better.
- Complete Breadth Physical Science with a grade of C or better.
- Complete HDFS 1500 with a grade of C or better.
- GPA of at least 3.00 on 40 attempted credit hours.
- Clear Utah Educator's background check
- Pass Educator Ethics Review
- Take Praxis 5001: Elementary Multiple Subjects
- Admissions Letter: Why I want to be a SPED teacher and why I think I'd be a good SPED teacher.

Other Requirements

Application to the Special Education Major:

- Must have the above requirements met.
- Application is due every year by October 10. Students typically apply during their sophomore year.
- The application can be found on the Special Education Website <http://www.sper.usu.edu/>
- Admitted students must then complete the professional education coursework during spring semester before they begin special education coursework the following fall.
- Admission to the special education major is competitive. The minimum GPA for application is 3.00.
- The following factors are considered when reviewing applications:
 1. Teacher education requirements met

2. GPA
3. Documented prior experience helping people with disabilities
4. Total number of credit hours completed
5. Praxis Exam taken
6. Educator Ethics Review Passed
7. Educator Background Check Passed

Applications are available beginning July 1 of each year. The application may be found at <http://www.sper.usu.edu/>

Timeline

Applications will be reviewed by the Special Education Undergraduate Committee. Emails will be sent to students regarding their admissions status by November 1.

Please Note

- Students who are accepted to the Special Education major will submit the Letter of Intent by December 1.
- Students admitted to the Special Education major will complete the Professional Education classes the following spring semester with a grade in each of class of at least a B-.
- Admitted students must satisfy the Professional Development Component.
- Gaining Experience: If students do not have experience working with students with disabilities, they may want to take SPED 4910. This class provides experience in local schools working with students with disabilities. Students must fill out a SPED 4910 contract with their advisor to be in this course.