

# Special Education

## Degrees Available at SIUE

- MEd with emphasis in Professional Development in Special Education

## Specialized Learning Opportunities

- Second Certificate in Special Education (Learning Behavior Specialist I)

## Special Education Graduate Programs at SIUE

This program is designed for graduate students who have a teaching certificate in special or general education and are seeking advanced professional learning in special education. The MEd, with an emphasis in special education, provides practicing teachers the opportunity to expand their ability to serve students with special learning needs.

It consists of 24 hours of core courses and nine hours of electives to be determined by the candidate and his/her advisor. This option does not lead to initial or advanced licensure in special education.

## Why Special Education?

Special educators provide a critical service to students with disabilities, their families and the school system. It is a dynamic field that offers a variety of challenging and rewarding opportunities.

## Career Opportunities

There is a growing need for special educators nationwide, and that growth is anticipated to continue in the years to come. There is currently a shortage of special education teachers in Illinois.

## Teacher Education Diversity Statement

SIUE's teacher education programs foster teacher candidates' ability to understand and meet professional responsibilities by modeling respect and value for diversity. Candidates create and engage their students in practices that develop awareness, understanding, respect and a valuing of the forms of diversity that exist in society and their importance in learning and teaching. The School of Education, Health and Human Behavior teacher education programs are dedicated to supporting all teacher education candidates, regardless of their economic or social status, and advocates for the rights of students free from discrimination based on race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identification, ability or age.

## Faculty

Faculty in the special education program in the School of Education, Health and Human Behavior represent a diverse group of professional educators and exemplary teachers, holding doctoral degrees from universities throughout the country. Theory and practice are integrated to inform teaching, scholarship and service demonstrating that they are teacher scholars current in their respective fields. Service extends beyond internal SIUE committees to leadership and service in several professional organizations, as well as international, national, state, regional and local communities.

## Admission Requirements

- Graduate School application and \$40 fee
- Submission of all postsecondary academic transcripts
- Successful completion of a bachelor's prior to enrollment
- Minimum GPA of 2.50
- International Applicants: Proof of English Proficiency, minimum requirements are TOEFL (79), IELTS (6.5) or equivalent
- Applicants must hold a current initial teaching license in special, elementary or secondary education to be admitted.
- Candidates seeking a second teaching license must also complete an application through the Student Services, Certification and Advisement Office, located in Founders Hall, Room 1110.



## Faculty

### Graduate Program Director

**Susanne James, PhD**

2011, University of Kansas  
sjames@siue.edu

**Anthony M. Denkyirah, PhD**

2003, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

**Linda L. Forbringer, PhD**

2003, Saint Louis University

**Wendy W. Fuchs, PhD**

2008, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

**Stacie M. Kirk, PhD**

2006, University of Kansas

**Craig A. Miner, PhD**

1994, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

**Mary K. Weishaar, PhD**

1984, Saint Louis University

**Phil M. Weishaar, PhD**

1984, Saint Louis University

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
**EDWARDSVILLE**

GRADUATE SCHOOL

### Admission Requirements, Cont.

Program application materials may be uploaded during the application process, but official transcripts must be sent directly from the school attended, and test scores must be verifiable with the appropriate testing service. Please contact the Graduate Admissions office with questions regarding the application submission process at [graduateadmissions@siue.edu](mailto:graduateadmissions@siue.edu).

Once accepted into the Graduate School, each candidate is assigned an advisor, and is required to meet with that assigned advisor as soon as possible after notification of admission to discuss the candidate's official program of study.

Review the SIUE Admissions Policy for more information.

### Graduation Requirements

Students must complete an action research project while enrolled in SPE 595 and attain a grade of at least a B to pass. Candidates seeking the LBS I as an endorsement must pass the cross-categorical special education test, general curriculum test and K-12 APT test prior to licensure entitlement.

Review the graduation policy for more information.

### Curriculum

The minimum number of semester hours required to complete each of the special education degree programs for the Master of Science in education is 36, not to include any courses at the 400-level. In some instances, additional hours may be required, which are determined in a conference between the student and the assigned graduate faculty advisor.

Requirements for completing the two MEd options are as follows:

#### MEd with emphasis in Professional Development in Special Education

- General Professional Core (six hours): EPFR 515, 520 or 521
- Special Education Core (15 hours): SPE 500, 511, 514, 515, 522, 523
- Electives (nine hours)
- Final Project (three hours): SPE 595, which includes completion of an action research project and oral presentation. Preliminary planning of this project is initiated in SPE 500.

Candidates choosing the Master of Science in special education must enroll in SPE 578 (Advanced Field Study) for three hours if they are not currently teaching. The decision about when this course should be taken will be made in consultation with the faculty advisor.

#### Retention Requirements

Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average. Students must also obtain a B or better in SPE 500 (Research in Special Education: Preparation for Field-Based Research) and obtain a B or better on the paper required in the course.

#### Contact Information

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