

Required Courses

- SPE700 Educating Special Learners (5 credits)
- SPE701 Educational Assessment of Learners with Disabilities (5 credits)
- SPE702 Teaching Math, Science and Technology in Inclusive Classrooms (3 credits)
- SPE703 Research in Special Education (3 credits)
- SPE731/41 Literacy and Social Studies Instruction for Childhood/Adolescent Learners with Disabilities (5 credits)
- SPE732/42 Learning Environments for Childhood/Adolescent Learners with Disabilities (3 credits)
- SPE733/43/53 Practicum in Special Education (6 credits)

Elective Courses

- Elective in Diversity (3 credits)
- Elective in Collaboration (3 credits)

Additional Requirements

- This program is field-based. As a result, a significant amount of your teacher preparation program will be conducted in the professional field under supervision with students and cooperating teachers. The required practicum is offered during the spring and fall. Summer practicum is available to those meeting certain criteria. This is important to consider in planning your program since working in the field demands that you have time available to spend in schools, clinics, and classrooms. This may necessitate an adjustment of your daily schedule. **You must have a 3.0 average in graduate courses and no more than two courses with a B- in order to enroll in the practicum course.**
- Deadlines for practicum application forms are available in the Educational Studies Office, Old Main Building 108.

Graduation Requirements

- Certification Exam
- In order for SUNY New Paltz to recommend a student for certification you must pass the Students with Disabilities Content Specialty Test.

Course Offerings

SPE572 Teaching Learners of Culturally/Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds (3)

This course examines the academic and social challenges education poses faced by students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Methods for implementing culturally relevant instruction and programs for all students will be discussed.

SPE700 Educating Special Learners (5)

This course will examine issues related to the education of learners with special needs, including the philosophical, historical, social, and legal foundations of special education; characteristics of learners with disabilities; employment and independence for learners with disabilities; and professionalism and ethical practices. The course will also offer students field-based experiences working with learners with disabilities in educational programs that address a wide range of academic, social, and transitional needs. Prerequisite: Matriculated status.

SPE701 Educational Assessment of Learners with Disabilities (5)

This course explores critical issues in the educational assessment process and focuses on the use of informal and formal assessment strategies to identify and assess learners with disabilities. This course offers students field-based experience in assessing the educational performance of learners with disabilities. Prerequisite: SPE700 and matriculated status.

SPE702 Teaching Math, Science and Technology in Inclusive Classrooms (3)

This course examines methods for planning, implementing, and evaluating instructional strategies for students with disabilities, particularly in the areas of math, science, and technology. It emphasizes differentiating instruction based upon learner characteristics, learning environment, curriculum and standards. Prerequisite: SPE700 or SPE701 and matriculated status.

SPE703 Research in Special Education (3)

Reviews current issues in special education research. Students design and execute a research project addressing their interest. Prerequisite: SPE700 and matriculated status.

SPE731/41 Literacy and Social Studies Instruction for Childhood/Adolescent Learners with Disabilities (5)

This course will examine methods for planning, implementing, and evaluating instructional strategies for students with disabilities on the childhood or adolescent level, particularly in the areas of literacy and social studies. Emphasis will be placed on methods for differentiating instruction based upon learner characteristics, learning environment, curriculum and technology considerations, and state, and national standards. Prerequisite: SPE700 or SPE701 and matriculated status.

SPE732/42 Learning Environments for Childhood/Adolescent Learners with Disabilities (3)

This course will focus on planning and implementing safe, positive and supportive learning environments. Teaching pro-social skills, and employing best practices for including childhood or adolescent learners with disabilities in general education settings will be included. Prerequisite: SPE700 and matriculated status.

SPE733/43/53 Practicum in Special Education (6)

This course provides students with the opportunity to teach learners with disabilities in a school setting under the direction of a cooperating teacher and a university supervisor. Prerequisite: SPE700, SPE701, SPE702, SPE731/41, and SPE732/42 and matriculated status.