

MAJOR TO CAREER GUIDE

Special Education

College of Education

Mission of the College of Education

The College of Education is committed to creating an intellectual environment that promotes quality instruction, significant research, and professional service. Particular attention is focused on preparing professionals for diverse educational settings and on contributing to educational and pedagogical knowledge through scholarly endeavors. The College provides leadership in both the art and science of educational practice. Furthermore, the College is committed to creating an inclusive learning environment that values and promotes diversity.

Visit this site for more information:

<http://education.unlv.edu/>

About Special Education

Students in the B.S./B.A. in Special Education program will be prepared to work with children with disabilities (e.g., autism, emotional and behavioral disorders, learning disabilities, intellectual disabilities) They provide evidence-based methods and strategies as well as individual support to students, families, and general education teachers.

A bachelor's degree in special education prepares students not only for teaching but also job opportunities in hospitals, mental health centers, recreation programs, and other state and community agencies.

UNLV Academic Advising for Special Education Majors:

Academic Advisors are eager to meet with students about their academic goals and to assist in constructing a plan for graduation. Advisors can also help students understand how their experiences at UNLV can lead to a career in their desired field. Go online to schedule an appointment with your advisor today!

College of Education Advising & Field Placement Center

Phone: 702-895-1537

Campus Location: CEB 221

<http://education.unlv.edu/afp>

Special Education Career Options

- Special Education Teacher
- Transition Specialist
- Disability Specialist
- Recreational Therapist
- School Psychologist*
- School Counselor*
- Principal*
- Instructional Coordinator*
- Careers also offered in:
 - Hospitals
 - Daycare centers
 - Recreational centers
 - Churches

*Requires further education

Graduate Program

The following graduate programs are offered in the UNLV College of Education:

Department of Educational & Clinical Studies

702- 895-3205, CEB 118

<http://education.unlv.edu/ecs/>

- Master of Education in Early Childhood Education
- Master of Education in Special Education
- Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling
- Master of Education in School Counseling

Department of Educational Psychology & Higher Education

702-895-3253, CEB 320,

<http://education.unlv.edu/ephe/>

- Master of Science in Educational Psychology
- Master of Education in Higher Education

Department of Teaching & Learning

702- 895-1986, CEB 359B

<http://tl.unlv.edu/>

- Master of Education/Master of Science in Education (Visit website for full list of concentration areas offered)

Clubs, Orgs & Professional Associations

UNLV offers a wide variety of clubs and organizations to meet the needs and interests of students. Visit the Involvement Center via your MyUNLV account to explore, access, and join hundreds of student organizations. Get involved today!

Student National Education Association:

<http://www.nea.org/>

Student Council for Exceptional Children:

<http://www.cec.sped.org/>

Student NEA:

<http://www.nea.org/home/1600.htm>

Helpful Career Information

Employers rate candidate soft skills/qualities in order of importance

- 1 Ability to verbally communicate with persons inside and outside the organization
- 2 Ability to work in a team structure
- 3 Ability to make decisions and solve problems
- 4 Ability to plan, organize and prioritize work
- 5 Ability to obtain and process information
- 6 Ability to analyze quantitative data
- 7 Technical knowledge related to the job
- 8 Proficiency with computer software programs
- 9 Ability to create and/or edit written reports
- 10 Ability to sell or influence others

Source: Job Outlook 2013

Courtesy of the National Association of Colleges and Employers

Visit the Career Occupational Handbook to learn more about a specific occupation:

<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

The OCH covers hundreds of occupations and describes: What They Do, Work Environment, How to Become One, Pay, and more. Each profile also includes BLS employment projections for the 2010-20 decade.

Career Exploration/Planning

FOCUS 2: UNLV's computerized assessment profiles your interests, abilities, and values and helps you find a career that's right for you.

<http://hire.unlv.edu/careerAssessment.html>

Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI): Assessment designed to identify how you are energized, how you take in information, how you make decisions, and how you approach life.

<http://hire.unlv.edu/careerAssessmentMBTI.html>

Strong Interest Inventory: Generates an in-depth assessment of your interests among a broad range of occupations, work and leisure activities, and educational subjects.

<http://hire.unlv.edu/careerAssessmentStrong.html>

UNLV Career Services

Career Services encourages ALL UNLV students to take advantage of their services, which include:

- Assistance with developing a career plan and choosing a major
- Career counseling and guidance on building a RESUME
- Preparing for an interview, assistance with job searching and networking.

Phone: 702-895-3495

Campus Location: SSC-A 2nd Floor

<http://hire.unlv.edu/>

Field Experiences

Students' last three semesters of field experience will consist of a Practicum in a resource room, Pre-Student Teaching, and Student Teaching:

P: Enrolled in classes, placed in CCSD resource classrooms 60 hours

Pre-St: Enrolled in classes, placed in CCSD classroom 150 hours

Student Teaching: ONLY enrolled in EDSP 491 and 492, placed in CCSD classrooms full-time for at least 350 hours.

<http://education.unlv.edu/ofe/>

MEDIAN SALARIES BY DISCIPLINE 2010-2012

Career	Salary Range	Median Salary
Special Education Teacher	\$35,580- \$83,410	\$53,220
Recreational Therapist	\$26,640- \$62,670	\$39,410
School Counselor	\$31,630-\$86,250	\$53,380
Principal	\$58,300- \$129,480	\$86,970

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2012-13 Edition*, <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

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