Education – Early Childhood and Special Education

At UW-Eau Claire
A degree in Unified Early Childhood Education prepares graduates with the required understanding, extensive knowledge and specialized skills to teach all children in a learning environment. UW-Eau Claire offers outstanding teacher preparation and continuing education paths in the only unified program in the region. The Unified Early Childhood Education program is at the forefront of the field of education and meets the demand for dually certified teachers in two shortage areas.

Find your path
UW-Eau Claire special education graduates are in high demand and report around 100 percent placement rate. You will prepare for specialized jobs in a variety of settings including schools, social service agencies, child care, early interventions and home visits.

Give back
You will have the opportunity to do great community work through special education student organizations. Through Student Council for Exceptional Children (SCEC), students participate in community activities such as Special Olympics. SCEC sponsors a scholarship program for high school seniors who have a disability and who intend to receive further training or education. Best Buddies is another organization that matches college students one-on-one with adults with cognitive disabilities. To date, UW-Eau Claire Best Buddies has supported more than 100 friendships since the chapter began in 2004. Students also can get involved with the Wisconsin Early Childhood Association and the Wisconsin Division of Early Childhood.

Gain experience
During the program, students will have access to hands-on experiences and modern facilities, including the department’s Resource Library, and the LEAP Clinic. For more than 20 years, faculty have directed students within the LEAP Clinic, a community-based summer program that addresses academic and behavioral needs. Students are required to participate in numerous field placements. In addition, students can be placed in urban and reservation schools to gain cultural immersion experience. These hands-on opportunities provide our graduates with a distinct advantage and cultivate competence and confidence that leads to 100 percent job placement.

Cultural experience
The Early Childhood in Prague program is an immersion experience that occurs every other summer in June. The experience includes school-based observation in an English immersion program, home stays with families of students and exploration of the Czech special education system. Students will also experience cultural tours of Auschwitz Concentration Camp, Prague’s many castles and historical sites, Vienna and Dresden Germany. The 23-day trip is funded by the 2016 FLIE Grant through Blugold Commit- ment funds. While in Europe, students take six credit hours that satisfy one required course and one elective.

“Unified Early Childhood is about hands-on learning. The concepts, theories and ideas we’re taught are done through interactive and meaningful ways, allowing us to integrate this new knowledge across courses.”

-Rachel

What you need to know
Areas of teaching:
• Pre-K
• Kindergarten
• 0-3 early intervention
• Technical support personnel
• 1st-3rd grade
• Inclusive 4K
• Head Start

Places our grads teach:
• Chippewa Valley
• Mankato, MN
• Woodbury, MN
• Alexandria, VA
• Indiana
• Iowa

Suggested freshman curriculum
University writing requirement—depending on placement exam.
For test-out options, see uwec.edu/Blugoldseminar/testout.
Mathematics for Elementary/Middle Teachers I
Intro to Special Education
General Biology
Computers in Special Education
Fundamentals of Speech
School and Community Experience in Special Education
Humanities course
Social Science course
Psychology
Communication sciences and disorders
Geography

note:
Special admission note
Students must apply for entrance to the Special Education program. Students must pass the CORE or have the required ACT/SAT/GRE scores, complete 30 credits non-education coursework, have a minimum 2.75 resident and cumulative GPA, and complete the following two courses successfully: Introduction to Diverse Learners and School and Community Experience in Special Education.

www.uwec.edu/sped