About the major:
Designed to provide undergraduates with experiences that develop skills in assessing students as well as planning, implementing, and evaluating interventions. Special education graduates are prepared for a teaching career; however, graduates may also find employment in a variety of community settings.

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Required GE courses:

**Category IA:** CJ 201, 202 or 205

**Category IB:**
Math 203, Math 204 and Math 305 (Math for Elementary/Middle Teacher I, II and III) for majors with MCEA
Math 203 and Math 204 or Math 305 for CD/LD
Special Education Unified Early Childhood (SPED, UEC) take Math 203

**Category II: 9 to 12 credits, including:**
Biol 100 (General Biology), Phys 100 or 205 (Physical Science, or Renewable Energy), and Geol 106 (Earth Science) for majors with MCEA.
CD/LD majors need two from Biol 100, Phys 100, and Geol 106 plus elective.
SPED, UEC majors take Biol 100, Geog 178 (Conservation of the Environment), plus electives.

**Category III: 9 to 12 credits, including:**
Pols 110 (American National Politics), Psyc 261 (Psychological Development and Classroom Processes), plus electives.
SPED, UEC take Pols 110 and Psyc 261 or Pols 110, Psyc 331 (Child Psychology) and Psyc 260 (Educational Psychology).

**Category IV: 9-12 credits, including:**
One course from English/Foreign Language Literature.
One course from GE-IVA
And electives to satisfy minimum credits and subcategories

**Category V: 0-6 credits, including:**
ES 385 (Social Foundations: Human Relations).

**Western/Non-Western**
One course in Western history or Western contemporary culture AND one course in non-Western history or non-Western contemporary culture must be taken as part of GE-III or GE-IV.
Essential Courses:
- General Education courses should be taken during the first and second years.
- Sped 200 (Introduction to Diverse Learners) and 205 (School and Community Experience in Special Education) must be taken before admission to program. Sped 200 is a prerequisite to Sped 205.
- Taking Sped 205 in the second or third semester avoids a potential conflict with ES 203 (Exploring Schooling in Grades 1-8) in the sophomore year for students seeking Middle Childhood through Early Adolescence (Elementary Education) certification.
- Students are strongly advised to take Sped 200 and 205 early in their program. Call the department office to get on a waiting list if these two courses are full when you register.

Students should avoid any math or science courses other than the ones specified for education majors. Avoid taking more than one science course per semester.

Information for exploring students:
Sped 200 (Introduction to Diverse Learners)
Sped 210 (Introduction to Cognitive Disabilities)
UEC 220 (Introduction to Inclusive Early Childhood Education)

Student Council for Exceptional Students (SCEC) - A pre-professional organization open to those interested in working with people who have disabilities.

Best Buddies - College students are matched with adults with disabilities in the community to share leisure activities.

Admission:
- A full list of requirements for admission to program (Gate 1) is available on-line at: http://www.uwec.edu/Sped/gates/gate1.htm
- Verification of 50 hours of experience (25 with students who have disabilities) is required for admission to program. The minimum of 50 hours is met through SPED 205. Students can get these hours any time and it is a good idea to start early (high school experiences also can count). Validation forms can be obtained in the Special Education office or on-line at: http://www.uwec.edu/Sped/gates/gate1.htm (Gate 1 Validation form)
- A minimum of 2.75 GPA is required for admission to the Special Education program and admission to the pre-program course in Middle Childhood through Early Adolescence (ES 203). Students should be reminded to keep their grade points at or above a 3.0. Admission is competitive.
- Students seeking MCEA certification must apply separately through the Educational Studies Department. Students are required to pass a standardized test—the Praxis Core—preferably in their first year of study. The Praxis Core may be waived if a student has a composite ACT score of 23 with a minimum score of 20 on the English, math, and reading subject tests from a single ACT taken within the past 5 years. If a student does not meet all of these ACT criteria, they must take the entire Praxis Core.

- All majors in special education are comprehensive
- Admission to the special education program typically occurs during the students’ sophomore year

Contact information:
Department of Special Education
www.uwec.edu/sped/
Centennial Hall 3715
(715) 836-5511

UW-Eau Claire respects individual differences. This guide complements rather than substitutes for individual advising.

For instructions about how to declare this major:
www.uwec.edu/Registrar/student/chgofmajor/index.htm