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.

Major

Comprehensive major (no minor required)
- Special Education - Unified Early Childhood (birth to 9 years)

Where you'll find our grads
- Chippewa Valley
- Mankato, MN
- Woodbury, MN
- Alexandria, VA
- Indiana
- Iowa

Prepared for Success

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.

Why UW-Eau Claire

Scholarships
The school psychology program provides financial support for all school psychology students who desire it. The financial support includes:
- A limited number of graduate assistantships and fellowships.
- Part-time employment with local agencies serving individuals with exceptional needs.
- Work study positions providing opportunities for research and other work related to the profession

Hands-On Experience
In the Human Sciences and Services building you’ll have access to hands-on experiences and modern facilities, including the department’s Resource Center, the University Human Development Center 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. This clinic has served 40-60 students per year from the Eau Claire Area School District as well as from other area school districts. The LEAP Clinic received a Promising Practice Award (2007) from the Wisconsin PK-16 Leadership Council. This hands-on opportunity provides our graduates with a distinct advantage and cultivates competence and confidence that leads to 100 percent job placement.

Internships
You will have the opportunity to do great community work through special education student organizations. Through Student Council for Exceptional Children

“The special education staff is dedicated and committed to not only providing a quality education, but they inspired me to be the best possible version of myself. I am lucky to have gone through the special education program and UWEC.”
— Lauren R. Weber, UWEC Graduate

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The Power of AND University of Wisconsin Eau Claire
Education - Early Childhood and Special Education (continued)

(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.

Cultural Immersion

The Special Education in Scotland program provides majors with an international experience in the field of special education. This experience includes a two-week school placement with students with disabilities and allows students to understand what comprises special education in other countries. In addition, students can be placed in urban and reservation schools to gain cultural immersion experience.

Research Opportunities

Currently Suspended and Not Accepting Applications.

Suggested Freshman Curriculum

- University writing requirement - depending on placement exam
- Math for Elementary/Middle Teachers
- Intro to Special Education
- General Biology
- Computers in Education
- Fundamentals of Speech
- School and Community Experience in Special Education
- Intro to the Visual Arts
- Humanities course
- Social Science course
- Physical education course

Special Admission Guidelines

Students must apply for entrance to the Special Education program. Students must pass the Praxis 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.