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 Hands-On Experience**

In Centennial Hall you’ll have access to hands-on experiences and modern facilities, including the department’s Resource Library, the University Human Development Center and the Literacy Boost program. For more than 20 years, faculty have directed students within the Literacy Boost a program, a community-based summer program that addresses literacy needs. This program has served 40-60 students per year from the Eau Claire Area School District as well as from other area school districts. This hands-on opportunity provides our graduates with a distinct advantage and cultivates competence and confidence that leads to 100 percent job placement.

**Cultural Immersion**

The Special Education in Scotland and the Early Childhood in Prague programs provide 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.

**Get Involved / Student Orgs**

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.

First-Year Suggested 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 coursework, have a minimum 2.75 resident and cumulative GPA, and complete the following two courses with a B- or better: Introduction to Diverse Learners and School and Community Experience in Special Education