

TO: **Academic Policies Committee**

FROM: College of Education and Human Sciences

DATE: November 4, 2019

RE: New Course Prefixes

We request implementation of the following program change with the next possible *Catalog*.

Name of Department — Department of Special Education

Date of Department/Program Approval October 11, 2019

Date of CoEHS Curriculum Committee Approval – November 1, 2019

Date of CoEHS College Approval – November 1, 2019

From Current Catalog Web Page:

<https://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/education-human-sciences/special-education/>

To: Request a new course prefix: SEIP – Special Education and Inclusive Practices
Request new course prefix: UEM - Unified Elementary/Middle

Rationale: The requested SEIP prefix will help eliminate the continued pejorative use of the acronym SPED in social, school, and institutional of higher education (IHE) environments, including course identifiers. SPED is used by students in school and social settings as a replacement adjective or derogatory label for retarded or retard. It is important to cease using SPED as a prefix to bring more respect to special education professionals and to stop the potential use of SPED to refer to individuals who receive special education services. It models person first language, which is important to the field and promotes inclusivity rather than a deficit view of disability.

The new UEM prefix will differentiate the developmental ranges of the courses that are specific to the elementary and middle level coursework in the program. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) implemented changes in licensure rules including renaming the teaching area to elementary and middle school. Finally, the prefix is parallel to the UEC (Unified Early Childhood) prefix that identifies the early childhood developmental range and will provide identifiers other than special education content to those students taking the courses and their future employers.