Earn your degree and teaching license in four years. Become an expert at meeting students’ needs by providing individualized instruction to students with disabilities in grades K through age 21. The program leads to an Academic and Behavioral Strategist (ABS) teaching license, which qualifies you to teach students with mild-moderate disabilities in the following areas:

- Autism spectrum disorders
- Developmental disabilities
- Emotional and behavioral disorders
- Learning disabilities
- Other health disabilities

Visit teach.umn.edu for a comprehensive overview of teacher education at the University of Minnesota and the industry-driven method we use to educate and train future leaders in the teaching field.

Meet Our Students

"You really have to think outside the box. I think it's great for realizing that everyone has a place in this world, and some people don't know where that place is. And for both teachers and for students, some people just don't know where they belong. Special education is great for anyone who wants to be a part of that
journey, to figure out who they are and how they can help." Kaylen Lowe, current student

Student Experiences

The U of M Twin Cities is ranked #3 in the nation among special education undergraduate programs by Best Education Degrees in 2017.

Gain experience working with students with a variety of disabilities through elementary and secondary practicum placements. Join the U of M’s Student Council for Exceptional Children to build community with other special education students and engage in outreach in increasing awareness and knowledge of people with disabilities.

Study Abroad Options

Learn more about study abroad options for Special Education majors.

Meet Our Faculty
"Students that go through our program generally have jobs before they even leave the program, which is really exciting for our program. Oftentimes I will submit a request for a student teaching placement and somehow that student gets picked up even before they're finished with the placement." Kathy Seifert, Senior Lecturer and Director of Undergraduate Studies

Meet Our Alumni

"Through the special education program, I completed at least one practicum every semester. This allowed me to get practical, real-world experience while learning about important teaching concepts." Shane Barton, BS '17, Special Education Teacher
You might also explore

Early Childhood
Elementary Education Foundations
Music
Child Psychology
Youth Studies

Associated Careers

Disability Rights Advocates, Interpreters, Occupational Therapists, School Psychologists, Special Education Teachers, Teacher Assistants, Youth Advocates

Admission Information

Freshman admission information

Transfer admission requirements for the College of Education and Human Development