

Special Education: Learning & Behavior Disorders and Elementary Education Major Overview:

The Special Education: Learning & Behavior Disorders and Elementary Education major prepares students to teach and support children with learning and behavioral disorders in elementary school settings. The program focuses on creating inclusive, developmentally appropriate environments, and developing strategies to meet the individual needs of students. It covers both general education teaching methods and specialized techniques for supporting students with disabilities, emphasizing differentiation, behavior management, and individualized instruction. Graduates are equipped to make a positive impact in classrooms and assist students in reaching their academic potential.

Typical Industry Sectors:

1. K-12 Education (Public and Private Schools)
2. Special Education Services
3. Educational Consulting
4. Behavioral Health Services
5. Nonprofit Organizations and Community Programs

10 Sample Entry-Level Job Titles:

1. Special Education Teacher (Elementary)
2. Elementary School Teacher
3. Behavioral Interventionist
4. Special Education Assistant
5. Resource Room Teacher
6. Learning Support Teacher
7. Behavior Technician
8. Paraprofessional
9. Educational Aide
10. Inclusion Support Specialist

5 Hard Skills:

1. Special Education Assessment
2. IEP (Individualized Education Plan) Development
3. Classroom Behavior Management Techniques
4. Differentiated Instruction Methods
5. Knowledge of Learning Disabilities and Behavioral Disorders

5 Soft Skills:

1. Empathy
2. Patience
3. Communication
4. Problem-solving
5. Adaptability

Additional Training or Certifications:

To begin a career in special education, most states require a teaching certification specific to special education, often requiring additional coursework in learning and behavioral disorders. Some states may require a Master's degree in Special Education for certain positions or licensure, along with continuing education and professional development. Some roles may require certification in specific behavioral management techniques, such as Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA).

Student and National Organizations:

1. Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)
2. National Association of Special Education Teachers (NASSET)
3. National Education Association (NEA)
4. Autism Society of America
5. Phi Delta Kappa International (PDK)