

The Department of Special Education Program Outcomes

The Department of Special Education recognizes the Council For Exceptional Children Professional Content Standards for all initial special education teachers as the standard for initial teacher preparation programs in special education. Program outcomes for the Department of Special Education have been adapted from those standards. Upon completion of a degree from the Department of Special Education, students will demonstrate competency according to the following program outcomes:

Program Outcome 1 (CEC Initial Content Standard 1: Foundations)

Students will recognize that the field of special education evolves and changes according to philosophies, evidence-based principles and theories, relevant laws and policies, diverse and historical points of view, and other human issues.

Program Outcome 2 (CEC Initial Content Standard 2: Development and Characteristics of Learners)

Students will demonstrate a respect for individuals with exceptional learning needs first as unique human beings. They will further be able to compare and contrast human development and the characteristics of individuals with and without exceptional learning needs.

Program Outcome 3 (CEC Initial Content Standard 3: Individual Learning Differences)

Students will recognize the effects that an exceptional condition can have on an individual's learning in school and throughout life. The understanding of these learning differences will provide the foundation upon which students can design individualized instruction to provide meaningful and challenging learning for individuals with exceptional learning needs.

Program Outcome 4 (CEC Initial Content Standard 4: Instructional Strategies)

Students will demonstrate a repertoire of evidence-based instructional strategies to individualize instruction for individuals with exceptional learning needs. Students will select, adapt, and use these instructional strategies to promote positive learning results in general and special curricula and to modify learning environments appropriately for individuals with exceptional learning needs.

Program Outcome 5 (CEC Initial Content Standard 5: Learning Environments and Social Interactions)

Students will actively create learning environments for individuals with exceptional learning needs that foster cultural understanding, safety and emotional well-being, positive social interactions, and active engagement of individuals with exceptional learning needs. Students will use direct motivational and instructional interventions with individuals with exceptional learning needs to teach them to respond effectively to current expectations.

Program Outcome 6 (CEC Initial Content Standard 6: Language)

Students will demonstrate knowledge of typical and atypical language development and the ways in which exceptional conditions can interact with an individual's experience with and use of language. Students will use individualized strategies (including assistive technology) to enhance language development and teach communication skills to individuals with exceptional learning needs.

Program Outcome 7 (CEC Initial Content Standard 7: Instructional Planning)

Students will develop long-range individualized instructional programs anchored in both general and special education curricula. Individualized decision-making and instruction is at the center of special education practice.

Program Outcome 8 (CEC Initial Content Standard 8: Assessment)

Students will recognize that assessment is integral to the decision-making and teaching of children and they will use and analyze multiple types of assessment for a variety of educational decisions.

Program Outcome 9 (CEC Initial Content Standard 9: Professional and Ethical Practice)

Students will be guided by the profession's ethical and professional practice standards. Students will gain practice in multiple roles and complex situations across wide age and developmental ranges. They will maintain ongoing attention to legal matters along with serious professional and ethical considerations.

Program Outcome 10 (CEC Initial Content Standard 10: Collaboration)

Students will routinely and effectively collaborate with families, other educators, related service providers, and personnel from community agencies in culturally responsive ways.