EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION

Students in the early childhood special education major are expected to learn about the intellectual, physical, social, and emotional development of young children, with and without special needs, and about the role that families play in their development. Students graduating with this major are eligible to be recommended for Alabama Class B certification to teach children with diverse needs (P-3) as well as Alabama Class B certification in early childhood education (P-3).

Experimental learning activities, assessment, and practicums are provided for students on and off campus through the Office of Clinical Experiences. On-campus facilities that provide structured practicums may include the Children's Program, the Rural Infant Stimulation Environment (RISE) Program, and Early Intervention at The University of Alabama (EI@UA). These programs provide opportunities for students to work with infants, toddlers, pre-K children, and their families. Additionally, all students who major in early childhood special education will complete supervised practicum and internship experiences in diverse settings.

The undergraduate catalog is published annually. Program advising sheets are updated as policy changes are made and are thus likely to provide the most up-to-date information on degree and other requirements through DegreeWorks in myBama.

General Studies: 60 hours

Courses that are common to the teaching field and the general studies component may be applied to both. At least 120 hours are required for the degree.

In addition to the required general studies, students in this program must complete 9 additional hours of mathematics and 4 additional hours of science for a total of 12 hours in each area. Twelve hours in both English language arts and social science are required.

See general studies requirements listed earlier in this section. The following exceptions apply:

- **Area II:** Courses should be selected to meet teaching field or prerequisite requirements.
- **Area IV:** Courses should be selected to meet teaching field or prerequisite requirements.
- **Area V:** From those courses listed in option 2, CAT 200 Computer Education Application and CAT 250 Computer Educ Curric Devel should be selected. EDU 200 Orient to Teacher Education is also required.

Requirements

Code and Title	Hours
General Studies	
Complete 60 hours	60
Credit Hours Subtotal:	60
Professional Studies	

Students must earn grades of C- or higher in each of the following professional studies courses. The University of Alabama GPA — and, if transfer work, the cumulative GPA — must be at least 2.75 in these courses:

Code	Title	Hours
BEF 362	School, Culture, and Society [1]	3
BEP 305	Educational Psychology [1]	3
SPE 300	Survey Spe Accomd Stratg [1]	3
SPE 304	Instructional Strategies In Sp [1]	3
SPE 479	Intern In Early Childhood Spe [2]	6
SPE 479	Intern In Early Childhood Spe [2]	6
EDU 400	Internship Seminar	1
	Credit Hours Subtotal:	25

Teaching Field

The University of Alabama GPA — and, if transfer work, the cumulative GPA — must be at least 2.75 in these courses:

Code	Title	Hours
CEE 380	Tch Early/Elem Mathematics	3
CRD 369	Fnd of Read Inst for EC/ELE	3
CRD 400	Teach Readg Diverse Learn K-12	3
HD 202	Child Dev-Infancy/Todlr	3
HD 205	Early and Middle Child Dev	3
SPE 374	Working with Families	3
SPE 420	Early Language and Literacy	3
SPE 435	Behavior Management	3
SPE 471	Dev Persp Young Child W/ Disab	3
SPE 476	Assessment Of Young Children	3
SPE 477	Differentiated Acad. Instruct	3
SPE 478	Meth Teach Yng Child W/ Disb	3
	Credit Hours Subtotal:	36
Total Hours		**121**

Footnotes

[1] TEP admission is required upon completion of these Professional Studies courses.

[2] Internship will include a placement with at least two of the following age groups: birth-age 3, age 3-5, and age 5-8. Placements will be in appropriate settings that include children with and without identified disabilities.

Types of Jobs Accepted

Birth−3rd grade special education teacher, prekindergarten−3rd grade elementary education teacher, early interventionist, case manager

Jobs of Experienced Alumni

Lead teachers, instructional facilitators, cooperating master teachers, administrators (principals, special education supervisors, directors of non-profit organizations)

Learn more about opportunities in this field at the Career Center