

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

TEACHER EDUCATION



SPECIAL EDUCATION K-6

The Special Education K-6 program at the University of Nebraska at Kearney is a premier undergraduate program that will prepare students to work with children with special-needs from kindergarten through 6th grade. UNK's Special Education K-6 students get to interact in classrooms early and often. UNK's close partnership with Kearney and area schools gives students numerous opportunities to interact in both early practicums and student-teaching experiences. UNK knows the value of hands-on learning and guides students in these field experiences and throughout their college career to develop quality educators who make a difference in the lives of students.

Important Information

Praxis: The Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators Tests are required for certification in Nebraska and are part of all undergraduate education programs at UNK. The Praxis Subject Assessments are also required for certification in Nebraska.

AETP: Nebraska's Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program provides forgivable loans to eligible students who are working toward initial certification.

Student-Teaching: Arrangements are made for students who qualify to complete their student-teaching requirement in schools located in Nebraska and other states. Most pre-student-teaching and student-teaching field experiences take place in schools that are members of UNK Network of Partner Schools. UNK teacher candidates will complete 16 weeks (12 credit hours) of all-day student teaching. Some teacher candidates who pursue more than one endorsement will be required to complete more hours.

Alumni profile

"I have always wanted to be a teacher," said Ashley Aagesen, a 2014 graduate from Yuma, Colorado.

"The best part of this program is when you get assigned for student teaching," Aagesen said.

She student-taught at Glenwood Elementary School in Kearney with a group of third-grade students. She then moved to a special education classroom teaching life skills at Meadowlark Elementary School. "Having these real-life experiences in a classroom helped inform me on how to act in certain situations that weren't encountered in a class," she said.

Aagesen is now a Resource Teacher for Lexington Public Schools. "I teach students who have an Individualized Education Plan. Most of my small groups are pull-out for math, reading, and writing. I also teach students with high needs in a life skills room."



**ASHLEY
AAGESEN**

Student profile

"UNK provides opportunities to be active in the community and gain hands-on experience before you are on the search for your first 'big kid' job," said Natalie Lassek, a senior from Fullerton, Nebraska.

"The most beneficial experience was being provided opportunities to be a part of the community. UNK allows each student to gain experience within classrooms around the surrounding areas and this helps us gain an understanding of what it will be like when we reach that stage in our lives."



**NATALIE
LASSEK**

SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHING SUBJECT ENDORSEMENT

FOUR YEAR CLASS SCHEDULE: BACHELOR OF ARTS IN EDUCATION

The schedule is a guideline for progress toward a degree. Consult with your academic adviser.

<p>Semester 1 (16 credits)</p> <p>ENG 102 Academic Writing/Research SPCH 100 Fundamentals of Speech TE 100GS Teaching in a Democratic Society BIO 103 General Biology/Lab Elective (3 Credit Hours)</p>	<p>Semester 2 (15 credits)</p> <p>Approved HIST GS Course PE 150GS Healthy, Wealthy and Wise GS Portal ART 100GS Art Structure PSCI 110GS Introduction to American Politics</p>
<p>Semester 3 (16 credits)</p> <p>MATH104 Concepts in Math/Statistics PHYS 100GS Physical Science/Lab TE 206 Instructional Technology Take any approved ECON, PSY, SOC, or GEOG GS course TE 318 Management and Assessment in Preschool/Elementary Classrooms TESE 323 Partnerships with Families</p>	<p>Semester 4 (16 credits)</p> <p>ENG 250GS or Approved ENG Course TE 204 Typical/Atypical Growth/Development TESE 330 Collaboration/Consultation/Co-Teaching TESE 437 Medical Aspects of Individuals with Disabilities TESE 461 Legal Issues in Special Education</p>
<p>Semester 5 (15.5 credits)</p> <p>Capstone Course – Any 388GS TESE 462 Assessment and IEP Development TESE 471 Field Experience with Students with Multiple Disabilities TESE 472 Strategies for Teaching Students with Intellectual Disabilities TESE 473 Teaching Students with Multiple Disabilities MATH 230GS Math for Elementary Teachers Elective (1 Credit Hour)</p>	<p>Semester 6 (15.5 credits)</p> <p>TE 311 Math Methods I TE 313 Field Experience: Math MATH 330GS Math for Elementary Teacher TE 314 Phonics and Word Study TE 315 Literacy assessment TE 316 Primary Grades Literacy TE 317 Field Experience: Literacy Elective (3 Credit Hours)</p>
<p>Semester 7 (17.5 credits)</p> <p>TE 312 Math Methods II TE 313 Field Experience: Math TESE 463 Instructional Strategies TESE 464 Field Experience with K-8 Students TESE 467 Behavioral Interventions TESE 468 Assistive Technology TE 411 Inclusive Practices in PreK-8 TESE 479 Teaching Social Skills</p>	<p>Semester 8 (12 credits)</p> <p>TE 400 Student Teaching</p>

Traits for success

A candidate in this degree must possess a love for teaching, and for continued learning; have classroom regulation skills, high standards for students, able to work well in a team, creativity and imagination, able to give clear directions, be a well-rounded communicator, be knowledgeable of the subject matter, engaging and enthusiastic, adaptable, organized, prepared, warm and caring.

Career opportunities

When you complete this program you will be qualified to teach in public or private Special Education classrooms Kindergarten through 6th grade.

Scholarships:

- Dr. Jack L. Campbell Memorial Scholarship Fund for Special Education
- Kristine Everitt Memorial Scholarship
- Donald L. and Betty J. Grassmeyer Fund
- Ella E. Hahlweg Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Kearney Sertoma Club Endowed Scholarship
- Edna Larsen Memorial Scholarship
- Carol “Sweley” Windhorst Scholarship
- More at http://www.unk.edu/offices/financial_aid/continuing-student-scholarships.php

Clubs and Organizations:

- ELED Club- Elementary Education Club
- Education Association of Nebraska
- Special Olympics College- UNK
- Kappa Delta Pi- Educational Honor Society

For more information, contact:

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STUDENT PROFILE – JIMENA GUERRERO

“Most of my classes have put us in actual classrooms to experience hands-on activities and gain the experience that we will need in the future. Currently, I am placed in a middle school special education room and I’m learning so much more than you would in class lectures,” said Jimena Guerrero, a junior from Wood River, Nebraska.

Guerrero first fell in love with special education in her high school years as a volunteer at an after-school program. “It was truly rewarding to see their smiles and their eyes spark when they did something correct. At the

end of the day, I felt that I was learning something different from them and in other words my heart was just so happy. I knew this is what I wanted to dedicate myself to do,” she said.

After graduation Guerrero wants to stay around the Kearney or Grand Island area to teach. “I realize that coming to college is much more than just your degree, but also focusing on growing as an individual and gaining the skills to make us successful in our future endeavors.”