



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

We're more than you think.

We are proud of our reputation as the flagship teacher education program in South Carolina and the region. Our program leads students to successful teaching careers because we ensure that what we teach is relevant to the workplace and that we challenge and inspire those who come to us. With \$7 million federal funding through the Teacher Quality Partnership program, we are creating a new model of undergraduate teacher preparation. As you will see, our commitment to leadership, stewardship, collaboration and innovation exemplifies all that we do.

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WINTHROP
UNIVERSITY

ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA

Special Education, MD/SD

Advancing the education of individuals with exceptionalities

The Major

Teacher candidates in the mental disabilities and severe disabilities (MD/SD) program learn how to work in settings that serve students with disabilities and their families. The MD/SD certifications focus on children and adults who may have intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, and/or complex medical or physical needs. The Winthrop program emphasizes inclusion of students with intellectual and severe disabilities into general education and community settings. Special education graduates are prepared to teach preschool through secondary school aged children. In addition to coursework in mental disabilities and severe disabilities, each special education major also takes coursework in behavior management and general education methods.

The Program

Students pursuing this degree will be eligible to meet the Federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requirements to be a "highly qualified" teacher in three certification areas—students with intellectual disabilities, students with severe disabilities and elementary education. In addition, special education graduates complete the required coursework needed for add-on certification in elementary education. These credentials will greatly enhance their employment potential.

Internships

The department offers students small classes, ensuring interaction with faculty members. Early clinical experiences and intensive course work in the areas of concentration are important features of the program. The MD/SD program provides a field experience in tutoring at-risk learners early in the program. In the senior year, teacher candidates participate in a twice-a-week practicum their first semester and a full time internship in their second semester. The special education program is continuously reviewed and updated to meet the needs of the changing profession.

Student Organizations

Winthrop University faculty and students are active in the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). The CEC, a non-profit professional association, supports special education professionals and others working on behalf of individuals with exceptionalities by advocating for appropriate governmental policies, setting professional standards, providing continuing professional development, advocating for newly and historically underserved individuals with exceptionalities, and helping professionals achieve the conditions and resources necessary for effective professional practice.

Faculty

The special education faculty at Winthrop are caring, dedicated, knowledgeable, student-oriented and highly devoted to teaching. The full-time teaching faculty are all active scholars in the field of special education, and 100 percent hold a terminal degree, a Ph.D. or Ed.D., indicating a high level of knowledge in their discipline.

The faculty in the Richard W. Riley College of Education also participate in a variety of professional activities, coordinate other Winthrop programs and volunteer in Rock Hill and other local communities. Education majors have plenty of opportunity to interact with their professors and establish the contacts they will need for advanced study and employment.

How Does the Program Work?

Winthrop students interested in special education as a major start by taking general education coursework along with an introduction to special education course and a class where they provide instruction to students with disabilities. Once they complete these requirements, then they may apply for admission to the Teacher Education Program in the College of Education. After this admission, they complete more concentrated studies in students with mental and severe disabilities.



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