

Instructions for Applying to the Special Education Program

Initial Deadline: February 1, 2022

Rolling Admissions after initial deadline until August 1, 2022

Applying to the Special Education program is a two-step process. The first step involves developing the application materials, which are detailed below. This step may be completed at any point during the application period, ideally as soon as the applicant decides to apply for admission to the Special Education program. *Applicants need to have all application materials ready to submit before completing the second step.*

Prospective applicants are also strongly encouraged to meet with a School of Education Student Services Advisor. Please go [HERE](#) to learn how to set up a time to meet with one of our advisors.

In recent years the Special Education program has been able to accommodate all qualified applicants; however, if the number of qualified applicants exceeds program resources, admission will become limited and competitive. Obtaining or exceeding the minimum eligibility criteria does not guarantee admission. Applicants should carefully review the program admission information available in the [Guide](#).

Applicants not currently enrolled on the UW-Madison campus must also submit an application to the [Office of Admissions and Recruitment](#).

The online application consists of the following parts and has required documents listed below:

Step One: Compile Application Materials

Review Mission Statement

- ☐ Review the Mission Statement for the Special Education undergraduate program. Mission Statement can be found [HERE](#).

Program Eligibility

RPSE 300 - Individuals with Disabilities

- ☐ Students must acknowledge that they:
 - Have completed RPSE 300
 - Are Currently Enrolled in RPSE 300
 - Will take RPSE 300 in Summer 2022*

**Students enrolling in RPSE 300 in summer 2022 are provisionally admitted until completion of course.*

Transcripts

Current and prospective UW-Madison students must upload their unofficial transcripts¹ from each college or university they are currently or have previously attended². Transcripts must be a single file PDF per school or college.

- ☐ All UW-Madison students can go [HERE](#) to learn how to download their unofficial transcript.

¹*If enrolled in Fall 2021 courses, transcripts must include Fall 2021 courses, grades, and GPA.*

²*Includes college credits earned while in high school. Does not include AP or IB course work.*

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Option Selection

Applicants are allowed to select one (1) of the three program options.

- ☐ Special Education Cross-Categorical, Kindergarten through Grade 12 (K-12)
- ☐ Early Childhood Special Education, Birth-Grade 3
- ☐ Early Childhood Special Education, Birth-Grade 3 **and** Special Education Cross-Categorical, K-12

More information about these options can be found [HERE](#).

Applicants interested in the *Special Education Cross-Categorical, K-12 and Elementary Education, Kindergarten through Grade 9 (K-9)* option must apply through the Elementary Education program. More information about the program and option can be found [HERE](#).

Essays

- ☐ **Statement of Purpose**
 - Applicants must provide a written statement addressing the following prompt:
 - Provide insight into your background and experiences that have contributed to your decision to pursue a special education degree. Reflect on your own views as they relate to disabilities; consider what assumptions, previous experiences, or expectations that compel you to apply for this program.
 - The document must be uploaded as a PDF and no longer than three (3) pages.
- ☐ **Optional Essay:**
 - If you feel that the COVID-19 disruption or other extenuating circumstances had an undesirable or unexpected impact on your academic performance during Spring 2020, Fall 2020, and Spring 2021 please provide additional information for the review committee to consider. Must be uploaded as a PDF.

Step Two: Completing Online Application

Accessing the Application

The online application for the Special Education program may be accessed via the School's [Apply to a Program page](#) and has an initial deadline of February 1, 2022. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis if received after the initial deadline until August 1, 2022.