

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:

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 or transfer equivalent
 - Are currently enrolled in RPSE 300 or transfer equivalent
 - Will take RPSE 300 in Summer 2023¹

GPA Requirement

- Minimum GPA
 - earn a minimum 2.5 grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale on all transferable college-level coursework attempted²

¹ Students enrolling in RPSE 300 in summer 2023 are provisionally admitted until completion of course

² Students that do not meet the 2.5 GPA will have their GPA reviewed using the [Last 60 Credit Rule](#)

Degree Option Selection

Students will be applying to one (1) of two (2) degree options for Fall 2023 admissions along with selecting their named certification program within that degree.

Special Education, BSE

- Select one of the named certification options below:
 - 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

Elementary Education and Special Education, BSE

- Students will be certified in the option below:
 - Elementary Education, Kindergarten through Grade 9 (K-9) and Special Education Cross-Categorical, (K-12)

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

Application Materials

Transcripts

Current UW-Madison students must upload their unofficial transcripts of their UW-Madison coursework. To access your UW-Madison unofficial transcript, go [HERE](#) for instructions. Transcript must be uploaded as a single PDF file. Transcripts must include Fall 2022 grades if enrolled in Fall 2022 courses

Prospective UW-Madison transfer applicants must upload an unofficial transcript from each college or university they are currently attending or have previously attended*. Transcripts must be a single file PDF per school or college. Transcripts must include Fall 2022 grades if enrolled in Fall 2022 courses

**This includes courses taken through a university or college while in high school. Does not include AP or IB work.*

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 one (1) page.

For technical issues please contact soeadmissions@education.wisc.edu

Optional Essay:

- If you feel that the COVID-19 disruption or other extenuating circumstances had an undesirable or unexpected impact on your academic performance, please provide additional information for the review committee to consider.
- This document must be uploaded as a PDF and no longer than one (1) page.

Online Application Form

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, 2023. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis if received after the initial deadline until August 1, 2023.

Background Check

Upon acceptance to the program, applicants will be asked to submit to a background check. The purpose of this background check is meet the legal requirements issued by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) for applicants for Wisconsin educator license.