



ED.M. IN SPECIAL EDUCATION WITH INITIAL CERTIFICATION: ELEMENTARY K-6 AND SPECIAL EDUCATION K-12 TEACHING (4+1)

Revised Summer, 2024 -- For students earning a bachelor's degree in May, 2026 or later

*Students who complete this program successfully will receive an Ed.M. in Special Education from the GSE as well as a nomination to the New Jersey Department of Education for two teaching certificates: a **Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing (CEAS) in Elementary School Teacher (K-6) and Teacher of Students with Disabilities (K-12)***

I. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: The Ed.M. in Special Education with initial Elementary and Special Education certification program is designed for Rutgers undergraduate students who wish to teach elementary in grades K-6 and and/or students with special needs in grades K-12. This program provides undergraduates with an opportunity to earn their bachelor's degree, a master's degree, and an initial teacher certification with just one additional year of study. Rutgers undergraduates do preliminary coursework as advised during the first three undergraduate years, including undergraduate prerequisite coursework. They are admitted to the program during the spring semester of junior year and enter the professional education sequence during senior year. After students are awarded a bachelor's degree by the undergraduate college, they continue with the professional sequence for a fifth year of full-time graduate study at the GSE.

Upon completion of all program requirements, students earn an Ed.M. in Special Education and the GSE will make a nomination to the New Jersey Department of Education on behalf of the student to receive a Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing (CEAS) in Teacher of Elementary (K-6) and Special Education (K-12).

The Ed.M. in Special Education with Initial Certification in Elementary K-6 and Special Education Teaching (4+1) program offers a range of foundational and specialized topics in elementary and special education using a cohort model. These topics include principles of classroom learning and organization, evaluation and assessment, literacy development, and educational psychology. Through the required core coursework, students are prepared to address the instructional needs of students with mild and moderate cognitive disabilities. Students develop competencies in the assessment and remediation of students with learning disabilities, collaborative teaching and consultation skills, and in effective family and community engagement.

In alignment with the GSE's mission, all teacher preparation programs and courses are designed to prepare teacher candidates to be culturally responsive practitioners and effectively teach diverse learners by fostering a deep understanding of students from historically underserved linguistic, economic, and cultural backgrounds and communities. Pedagogy courses aimed at meeting the specific learning needs of elementary, middle and high school students, along with carefully crafted internships under the guidance of experienced teachers and expert faculty providing feedback, ensure that candidates are well-prepared as teachers to advance equity and excellence in their content area.

II. MAJOR: All undergraduate majors are acceptable for this program. However, we recommend a liberal arts area. Please check with the GSE Advisor about your choice of major as early as possible in your undergraduate career.

III. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS: To be considered for admission to the program, applicants must provide the following before the application deadline:

1. Personal statement
2. One letter of recommendation
3. Official undergraduate transcripts - the New Jersey Department of Education requires a minimum GPA of 2.75 to be admitted to a teacher education program.

(NOTE: Praxis Core, SAT, GRE, ACT or other basic skills exams are no longer required as of January 1, 2025. Admission to the GSE Teacher Education Programs is competitive. Meeting the minimum requirements above does not guarantee admission.)

IV. HOW TO APPLY: Applications are submitted online at the Graduate Admissions website:

<https://newbrunswickgrad.rutgers.edu/>

1. Click on "Create Account or Login" and follow the instructions given.
2. Under "Start an application today!", click **Apply Now**
- Application Selection
3. For "Level of Application", select **Graduate**
4. For "Applicant Type", select **Degree**
5. Continue filling out the application, following the on-screen instructions.
- Program of Study
6. Under "Program Information", make sure **Degree** is selected for "Applicant Type"
7. For "Degree Type", select **Master's (e.g. MA, MS, EdM, MFA)**
8. For "Area of Study", select **Education**
9. For "Location/Instructional Method", select **New Brunswick**
10. For "Program Selection", select **Education – Special Education – 5 Year (EDM) New Brunswick**
11. For "Term", select the summer semester after your May undergraduate graduation date.
12. Complete the rest of the application by providing the requested information.
13. Enter payment information for the non-refundable application fee.
14. Submit your application.

V. GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS: Students must complete coursework in each of the following areas by completion of the program; fulfillment of these courses is not required for admission into the program. It is highly recommended that you coordinate the elements of this list with those of the general distribution requirements of your undergraduate college to make the most efficient use of your time. Courses should be selected in conjunction with the undergraduate program advisor.

Some of these requirements may be taken during the fifth year as a graduate elective as noted below.

<u>General Education Requirements</u>	
1. Math: two courses	01:640:107 Number & Operation for K-8 Teaching One other course from the following list*: 01:640:104, 106, 109, or 110 (109 and 110 are the recommended courses to fulfill this requirement.) *Students who took Math 103 prior to fall 2025 have completed this requirement.
2. Science: two courses	(Follow SAS/SEBS Core Natural Sciences requirement)
3. Educational Technology: one course	(Course may be used to fulfill one elective requirement if taken in the fifth year) 05:300:350 Education and Computers or 15:255:503 Introduction to Teaching with Digital Tools
4. Human Development: one course	(Course may be used to fulfill one elective requirement if taken in the fifth year) 05:300:306 Educational Psychology: Principles of Classroom Learning or 05:300:307 Human Development: Birth Through the Transition to Adulthood

VI. PRE-ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Course Number	Course Name
(May be taken during Phase 1 or Phase 2 with advisor's permission)	
05:300:368	Introduction to Teaching in Urban Schools & Communities
05:300:383	Introduction to Special Education

VII. PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Course Number	Course Name	Credits
Phase 1 Summer (0 credits)		
n/a	Working with Minors	0
n/a	School Law	0
Phase 1 Fall 1 (10 credits)		
05:300:498	Clinical Experience Phase 1	1.0
15:253:513	Teaching Emerging Bilinguals in PK-6 Classrooms	3.0
15:251:561	Math Methods in Early Childhood & Elementary	3.0
15:293:534	Classroom Organization for Inclusive and Special Classrooms	3.0
Phase 2 Spring 1 (12 credits)		
05:300:499	Clinical Practice Phase 2	3.0
15:251:559	Math and Science in the Elementary School	3.0
05:300:435	Foundations of Language and Literacy in Early Childhood	3.0
05:300:481	Materials and Methods in Special Education	3.0
	Undergraduate Total:	22.0
Course Number	Course Name	Credits
Phase 3 Summer 2 (6 credits)		
05:300:480 ^G	Literacy for Students with Disabilities	3.0
15:293:533	Assessment and Measurement for Special Education	3.0
Phase 3 Fall 2 (12 credits)		
15:255:535	Clinical Practice Phase 3	9.0
15:255:532	Clinical Practice Phase 3 Seminar	3.0
Phase 4 Spring 2 (15 credits)		
05:300:304 ^G	Art Across the Curriculum for Inclusive Classrooms	3.0
15:251:558	Reading and Teaching in the Social Sciences with Diverse Literature	3.0
15:293:539	Schools, Communities, and Social Justice for Students with Disabilities	3.0
15:293:545	Characteristics and Methods for High Incidence Disabilities	3.0
	Elective	3.0
	Graduate Total:	33.0
	TOTAL CREDITS:	55.0

^G Course must be 300-level or above to count towards graduate credits. 300- and 400-level courses must be registered with a **G-prefix**.

Additional Program Completion Requirements

VIII. LIBERAL ARTS: Students must complete a minimum of 60 credits in liberal arts to earn the master's degree. Neither Education courses, nor any other performance-based or vocationally-oriented coursework (accounting, engineering, human resource management, public health, social work, etc.) may be counted toward the 60 liberal arts credits; no School 05, School 15, or E-credit courses may be included.

IX. PRAXIS II TESTS: Students seeking certification in elementary education must achieve a passing score on the Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects Praxis II examination (test code 5001/subtests 5002, 5003, 5004, 5005). There is no Praxis II requirement for students with disabilities. **Students must pass the Praxis II prior to the start of full-time Clinical Practice Phase 3.**

X. PERFORMANCE-BASED ASSESSMENT (PBA): All candidates must pass a designated performance-based assessment during Clinical Practice Phase 3.

XI. PHYSIOLOGY, HYGIENE, AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE ISSUES: The Office of Student and Academic Services administers this New Jersey Department of Education exam during the final semester of the program.