Special Education Minor

The minor in special education is required for all IDS majors pursuing elementary (EC-6) certification. This minor is optional for students pursuing secondary/all-level certification. The courses required will prepare candidates for teaching in the general education classroom.

EDUC 2315: Survey of Diverse and Inclusive Settings
This course will provide students with a general overview of characteristics, learning needs, and educational placements of exceptional learners. In addition to increasing knowledge of special education terminology and legal issues, this overview of exceptionality will also include the history and development of the field. Current issues and trends will be reviewed including: inclusion, early childhood programming, transition to adulthood programming and the multicultural and bilingual aspects of education. Emphasis on family involvement as well as the psychological, sociological and medical aspects of learning differences will be covered. The class format will include a variety of instructional methods such as group discussions, guest speakers, lecture, videos, etc.

EDUC 3343: Teaching Students with Learning Differences
(pre-requisite: EDUC 2315)
The purpose of this course is to develop a comprehensive understanding of the academic and behavioral needs of individuals with learning differences. We will address identification procedures, assessments, school placements, and teaching strategies which can be used in both regular education and special education settings. We will explore the differences between students with developmental delays and those with identified learning disabilities. Additionally, we will examine perceptual and language processes that can impact learning in reading, written language and mathematics.

EDUC 3346: Teaching Students with Emotional and Behavioral Disorders
(pre-requisite: EDUC 2315)
The purpose of this course is to develop a comprehensive understanding of the academic and behavioral needs of individuals with emotional and behavioral disorders. We will address identification procedures, assessments, school placements, behavior modification strategies, and teaching strategies which can be used in both regular education and special education settings. We will examine strategies for communication between teachers, therapists, parents, and other support systems. Particular emphasis will be placed on Autism Spectrum Disorder and Attention Deficit Disorder.

EDUC 3349: Special Education Assessment and Evaluation
(pre-requisite: EDUC 2315)
The purpose of this course is to develop skills needed to understand and apply formal and informal assessments and evaluations to the instructional setting of students with special education needs. Emphasis will be placed on legal and ethical considerations, effective collaboration with parents and district/school personnel, and the implementation of instructional planning and strategies that support the identified learning needs.

For additional information, contact:
Dr. Elda Martinez, Director of Teacher Education
210-832-3297 / eemartin@uiwtx.edu