

# Special Education

## School of Education

Special Education Program (<https://www.uaf.edu/soe/academics.php>)  
907-474-7341

## Department Overview

The University of Alaska Fairbanks complies fully with the institutional reporting requirements mandated in Title II of the Higher Education Act Amendments of 1998. Please contact the School of Education for a copy of the report.

The School of Education prepares students from across Alaska, as well as from other states and nations, to work in urban and rural Alaska and to work with multicultural and minority — especially Alaska Native — students. To fulfill our commitment to enhancing educational opportunities for the state's rural and Native populations, faculty actively and knowledgeably utilize educational technology to deliver all School of Education programs to students in most areas of the state.

The School of Education offers bachelor's degrees in elementary education and secondary education; and postbaccalaureate programs are offered in elementary education, secondary education, counseling and special education.

Courses are available on-site and by distance delivery through the Kuskokwim, Bristol Bay, Chukchi and Northwest campuses, as well as on the Troth Yeddha' Campus in Fairbanks. Faculty research in cross-cultural studies, curriculum and instruction, language and literacy, and small rural schools supports the mission of the School of Education.

Priority for enrollment in field-based courses is given to rural students formally admitted to degree and licensure programs. All inquiries should be addressed to one of the rural campuses or to the School of Education's Certification and Advising Office.

Candidates for all School of Education programs are required to have a laptop computer. Laptops may be of any type but must have capacities that enable candidates to meet School of Education requirements. If you have questions about how a laptop purchase will fit in with your current financial aid package, please contact the UAF Financial Aid Office.

## Licensure Information

UAF education programs are approved by the Alaska State Board of Education standards and accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (<http://caepnet.org/>).

The School of Education is approved by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development to recommend its students for Alaska licensure as elementary and secondary teachers, school counselors and special education teachers.

The State of Alaska requires that all initial applicants for a teaching certificate pass a Basic Competency Exam (BCE) (<https://education.alaska.gov/teachercertification/praxis/>) from the list of exams accepted by the Alaska State Department of Education and Early Development.

In addition, Content Area Examinations (Praxis II) (<https://education.alaska.gov/teachercertification/contentareaexams/>) are required

for the Initial 2-3 Year, Professional, and Master teaching certificates. A list of accepted exams and passing scores is available on the website of the Alaska State Department of Education and Early Development.

## M.Ed., Special Education

The Master of Education in special education degree program prepares K-12 special educators at the graduate level with specific training in the areas of disabilities, assessment, intervention strategies, current law and the implementation of programs including the development of legally defensible documents related to the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Graduates will have mastery of the Council for Exceptional Children Initial K-12 Preparation Standards released in 2020. (<https://exceptionalchildren.org/standards/initial-practice-based-professional-preparation-standards-special-educators/>)

The program will provide individuals who already possess or are eligible for, a current Alaska teaching certificate or a bachelor's degree and the necessary prerequisites with specific training in special education. The program prepares K-12 special education teachers who can effectively understand state and national education issues and respond appropriately. Special education candidates will progress through a series of developmentally sequenced field experiences for all ages, types and levels of abilities including collaborative opportunities.

An option is available for individuals who are already certified special education teachers or individuals who want the special education knowledge and master's degree to perform professional duties that do not include being a special education classroom instructor. These individuals will not complete special education clinical practice, and no institutional recommendation for special education teacher certification will be issued.

The M.Ed. in special education provides development in collaboration/consultation models and program development in multicultural settings. Completion of this program meets the requirements for Alaska licensure as a K-12 special education teacher. For special education teacher certification in the state of Alaska, a passing score on the Praxis II Special Education: Core Knowledge and Applications test (#5354) is required.

Minimum Requirements for Special Education Master's Degree: 36 credits

Learn more about the master's degree in special education (<https://www.uaf.edu/academics/programs/masters/special-education.php>), including an overview of the program, career opportunities and more.

Each state has its own unique requirements for licensure or certification. If seeking a professional license or certificate in a state other than Alaska, please see the state listings on this page (<https://www.uaf.edu/provost/uaf-state-authorization/licensure.php>).

## Postbaccalaureate Certificate, Special Education K-12

This program prepares K-12 special educators at the graduate level with specific training in the areas of disabilities, assessment, intervention strategies, current law and the implementation of programs including the development of legally defensible federal IDEA documents.

Graduates will have mastery of the Council for Exceptional Children's (CEC) 2020 Initial Practice-Based Professional Preparation Standards for

Special Educators. (<https://exceptionalchildren.org/standards/initial-practice-based-professional-preparation-standards-special-educators/>)

The program will provide individuals who already possess, or are eligible for, a current Alaska teaching certificate or a bachelor's degree and the necessary prerequisites, with specific training in special education. The program prepares K-12 special education teachers who can effectively understand state and national education issues and respond appropriately. Special education candidates will progress through a series of developmentally sequenced field experiences for all ages, types and levels of abilities, including collaborative opportunities.

The program provides development in collaboration/consultation models and program development in multicultural settings. Completion of this program meets the requirements for Alaska licensure as a K-12 special education teacher.

Minimum Requirements for Special Education K-12 Postbaccalaureate Certificate: 24-27 credits

Learn more about the postbaccalaureate certificate in special education (<https://www.uaf.edu/academics/programs/post-bachelor-certification/postbaccalaureate-certificate.php>), including an overview of the program, career opportunities and more.

Each state has its own unique requirements for licensure or certification. If seeking a professional license or certificate in a state other than Alaska, please see the state listings on this page (<https://www.uaf.edu/provost/uaf-state-authorization/licensure.php>).

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## Minor, Special Education

The minor in special education is designed for students pursuing teacher certification through the UAF B.A. in elementary education or the B.A. in secondary education. It leads to an additional teaching endorsement in K-12 special education. Students will progress through a series of developmentally sequenced field experiences with various age groups, types and levels of disability, and collaborative opportunities. Students are assessed relative to national and state standards, including the Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) standards and the Council for Exceptional Children's (CEC) 2020 Initial Practice-Based Professional Preparation Standards for Special Educators.

Completion of the minor in special education meets the requirements for Alaska licensure as a special education teacher only if it is completed concurrently with a teacher certification program in elementary or secondary education. For special education teacher certification in the state of Alaska, a passing score on the Praxis II Special Education: Core Knowledge and Applications test (#5354) is required.

Minimum Requirements for Special Education Minor: 24 credits

## Postbaccalaureate Certificate

- Postbaccalaureate Certificate, Special Education K-12 (<https://catalog.uaf.edu/pbct/special-education-k-12-postbaccalaureate-certificate-completion/>)

## Minor

- Minor, Special Education (<https://catalog.uaf.edu/minors/special-education/>)

## Courses

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## Programs

### Degree

- M.Ed., Special Education (<https://catalog.uaf.edu/masters/special-education/>)