

# Instructions for Applying to the Special Education Program

DEADLINE

June 1, 2020 @ 4:30 p.m.

**Applying** to the Special Education program is a two step process. The first step is submitting an online application. 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. The second step involves developing and submitting application materials, which are detailed below. Students *do not* need to have all application materials ready to submit before completing the online portion. In fact, we encourage students to complete the online application portion as early as possible!

Completed applications received before the deadline will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Education Academic Services will collect, process, and deliver all eligible applications to the Special Education program for review. Applications will be considered on a "space permitting" admission basis after offers of admission are extended to applicants who applied by the deadline.

Prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to meet with an Education Academic Services/Office of Undergraduate Recruitment and Retention advisor. Please use Starfish to schedule an appointment. Students who are applying as prospective transfers to UW-Madison are also strongly encouraged to meet with an EAS/OURR advisor, either in person or via phone.

Questions about the application itself may be directed to [soeadmissions@education.wisc.edu](mailto:soeadmissions@education.wisc.edu); we will try to respond within 24 hours.

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](#) by the Fall 2020 deadline to be eligible for this program.

## Required Application Materials

### Step One: Online Application

The online application for the Special Education program may be accessed via the School's Apply to a Program page [HERE](#) and must be completed by the June 1, 2020, at 4:30 p.m. for consideration within the *priority application group*.

### Step Two: Email Application Materials

Application materials are due on June 1, 2020, at 4:30 p.m. for consideration. *Applicants should include their full name and student ID number (if a current or former UW-Madison student) on every page.* All materials must be submitted together, with the exception of letters of recommendation if the letter writer plans to email them to the School of Education. Applicants should email materials to [soeadmissions@education.wisc.edu](mailto:soeadmissions@education.wisc.edu)

Off-Campus Transcripts. Any coursework completed at other institutions is reviewed as part of the application materials for the Special Education program. To determine whether it is necessary to submit a transcript, consult the following guidance:

Current UW-Madison students who have transferred credits from another college or university to UW-Madison *before January 21, 2020*, must indicate any previous institution(s) attended on their on-line application. However, these students do not need to submit official transcripts as long as the relevant transcripts have already been evaluated by UW-Madison's Office of Admissions and the appropriate transfer credit has been posted.

Current UW-Madison students who submit transcripts for transfer coursework to the Office of Admissions *after January 21, 2020*, must also submit official copies of these transcripts to the School of Education with their other application materials. Students are encouraged to consult their academic advisor with questions about the status of transfer credit.

Prospective transfer students who are also applying to UW-Madison for admission must submit separate official transcripts to the School of Education as part of their program application. Applying to a program in the School of Education and to the UW-Madison campus are completely separate processes; both must be completed.

### **Résumé**

- The applicant's résumé should include a description and dates of educational and work experiences, awards, accomplishments, and a list of references.

### **Statement of Purpose**

- Applicants must provide a written statement of reasons for wanting to be a special education teacher. This is an open-ended document with no page or style limitations. Writing is so important in the professional life of teachers — and in the teacher education program — that the quality of the applicant's writing will be taken into account in making admissions decisions.

### **Application Checklist**

- This document serves as the cover sheet of your hard copy application materials. Please print a copy and complete the checklist before submitting your materials to Education Academic Services.

### **Additional Documents or Materials (*optional*)**

- Applicants may (but are not required to) provide additional documentation that may address or provide insight into their background, experiences, unique contributions, or professional goals.