
MAJOR CHOSEN: MASTER OF EDUCATION IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

I. A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE MAJOR

The Master of Education degree in Special Education is designed to prepare two groups of professionals: (1) general education teachers with degrees in elementary, middle, or secondary education who desire to teach mildly to moderately disabled learners (K-12th Grade) and (2) practicing special educators with baccalaureate degrees in special education who desire extended professional preparation in the field. Graduate course work focuses on foundations and legal aspects of the profession, characteristics, learning/language differences and identification of mildly-moderately disable learners (primarily attention deficit/hyperactivity disorders, emotional disabilities, learning disabilities and mental disabilities), procedures for special education planning, teaching strategies, assessment, behavior management in learning environments, professional and ethical practices, and collaboration. Although state certification is not a goal of this program, individuals who hold initial certification in a general education area (eg., elementary education) from the South Carolina Department of Education may qualify for add-on certification in Special Education. Graduates from this program may qualify for employment in public or private schools.

II. COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

Here are some of the courses you will especially enjoy:

Characteristics of Emotional-Behavior Disorders, Learning Disabilities, or Mental Retardation Each student in the graduate special education program is required to have six semester hours of instruction in the characteristics of exceptional children corresponding with the areas of their primary interest.

Behavior Management teaches you concepts and strategies of classroom management as it relates to special education and exceptional children. Topics include utilization of furniture and materials, evaluation of students, grading, and discipline. Approaches to classroom management from both the behavior and psychodynamic perspectives are presented, with a special emphasis on behavior management, basic behavior principles, behavior enhancement and reduction strategies, and the use of rewards and punishment.

Psychoeducational Assessment exposes the student to a variety of cognitive/intelligence, academic, perceptual, behavioral, career, and diagnostic skill tests for assessing and evaluating learners with disabilities. Advanced special educators get experience in examining theories of assessment and psychometry as well as administration, scoring, and interpretation of formal and informal tests necessary for identifying and classifying students with disabilities and developing individualized educational programs.

Teaching Math to Mildly Disabled Here you will study techniques, methods, and materials in teaching/remediating mathematics skill deficits to students with mild disabilities. Lecture and laboratory experiences focus on neuropsychological bases of math disorders, delineation of the most prevalent math deficits, diagnostic testing/assessment, remediation of math readiness skills, demonstration and supervised practice of the concrete-semiconcrete-abstract levels of learning model, strategy training/metacognitive approaches, and computer-assisted/commercially-produced remedial programs.

III. AN OUTLINE OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The following core courses are required:

Foundations of Education	3
Philosophy of Education	3
Research in Education	3
Teaching Math: Mild Disabilities	3*
Behavior Management	3*
Teaching Language Arts: Mild Disabilities	3
Adv. Teaching Techniques: Mild Disabilities	3
Psychoeducational Assessment	3

Six hours must be selected from the following:

Characteristics: Emotional Disabilities.....	3*
Characteristics: Learning Disabilities	3*
Characteristics: Mental Disabilities	3*

*Students who have received previous credit for one or more of these courses will substitute from the following courses:

Language Disorders.....	3
Music for Exceptional Learners.....	3
Corrective Reading Techniques.....	3
Internship: Special Education	3
Readings in Emotional Disabilities.....	3
Readings in Mental Disabilities.....	3
Readings in Learning Disabilities.....	3

IV. ABOUT THE FACULTY

Dr. Joe P. Sutton is chairman of the division of special education. He has received several large grants for his work in the field of special education, and has published numerous articles on special education and Christian education in various professional education journals. Dr. Sutton holds memberships in the *Council for Exceptional Children*, the *Division for Learning Disabilities of CEC*, the *Council for Educational Diagnostic Services of CEC*, the *Teacher Education Division of CEC*, and *Phi Delta Kappa*. He has been a featured speaker at conferences for special educators and home educators all across the United States.

Mrs. Connie Sutton is a specialist in the fields of emotional disturbance and learning disability. She is experienced in classroom work with special education students. Mrs. Sutton has also served as an Educational Specialist in the North Carolina public school system. Her experience includes work in Christian and secular schools.

Mrs. Marlene Reed has a wealth of teaching experience in both private Christian and public schools. Her tenure in the military as a behavior intervention specialist, and her years as a K-12 special educator have equipped her well for preparing teacher candidates in special education at BJU.

V. FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT, AND OPPORTUNITIES

You will have opportunities to work with disabled students first-hand. Teacher candidates may work with Greenville's Special Olympics, a year-round program for students with multiple disabilities. Hidden Treasure, a nearby Christian school especially for students with moderate—severe disabilities, offers teacher candidates a chance to work with disabled students. Camp Spearhead, a summer day and residential camp for students with mental disabilities, holds recreational programs on the weekend.

The Media Center is the technology resource center for the School of Education. Here you will find equipment to help you prepare teaching materials for presentations and to help you integrate technology into your lessons. Its trained staff will assist you as you learn how to operate both the software and equipment, including copiers, scanners, computers, digital cameras and camcorders, data projectors, a laminator, a document binding machine, digital audio-video editing and graphic software, and its newest acquisition—the Promethean interactive white board. In addition, the Media Center houses copies of the BJU Press materials, which are used regularly in the methods classes.

Completely equipped computer laboratories are available for your use. There are many academic computer labs conveniently located all over campus. They consist of various types of PCs, Apple PowerMacs, and laser printers and are all interconnected via a Novell computer network.

You will have the opportunity to observe experienced Christian teachers right on our campus in the beautiful buildings of Bob Jones Beginnings Center (kindergarten and first grade), Elementary School, Junior High, and Academy, as well as dedicated, professional special educators in local public schools.

Because of our care and concern for the spiritual as well as the physical needs of the people in our part of the country, students are encouraged to be involved in outreach ministries in our area. While you are here you will have the opportunity to participate in as many of these ministries as you can fit into your schedule. These opportunities vary from work in nursing homes, jails, detention centers, and churches, to visitation, Bible clubs, providing special music, and martial arts teams.

The Mack Library covers 89, 000 square feet of floor space and has seating for over 1,300 students. It provides you with 318, 000 items, including 17,000 music recordings, 70 electronic databases through the library website, and over 1,100 current periodical titles. In addition, the library participates in the statewide PASCAL Delivers program, allowing students to check out books from a statewide catalog of over nine million books. An interlibrary loan program for out of state borrowing is available through OCLC, a national database for books not held in our library. Other prominent features include the Jerusalem Chamber, a replica of a room in London's Westminster Abby in which work was done on the 1611 King James Bible, and the University Archives Room which displays materials about the Founder and the history of Bob Jones University.

Davis Field House, with over 87,000 square feet and seating for 3,000 people, contains 4 full-sized courts; auxiliary courts; indoor and outdoor tracks; swimming pool; café; and a fitness center with fully-equipped exercise room, aerobic room, sauna, and whirlpool.

If you are planning to live on campus, you will be glad to know that all of our residence halls are air-conditioned, have wall-to-wall carpeting, and have a phone in each room. You will be able to make long-distance calls directly from your room and have them automatically placed on your school bill. Computer network connectivity is available in all residence halls, as well.

All of our classrooms are air-conditioned, and most sidewalks are covered to keep you dry when it is raining. The Dining Common serves 8,500 delicious meals a day, and the Snack Shop and Campus Store in the Student Center carry just about anything you'll need.

If you are planning to live off campus, our **Office of Student Services** would be glad to assist you in finding employment and housing. You may request information by e-mailing Student_services@bju.edu or by calling (864) 242-5100.

You will find your fellow graduate students equally as serious about their studies, and many of them will become your good friends. Also you will have many opportunities to make valuable professional contacts during your time at Bob Jones University.

VI. CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND PLACEMENT

You will have many opportunities of service and ministry to choose from as you look for a place to teach. We receive over three times as many requests for teachers as we have teachers to fill those requests. And, in the future, the number of teaching opportunities will increase as we, as a nation, face a national teacher shortage, particularly in special education. You will be qualified to help meet this need and train young people both in the states and abroad.

The Career Development and Placement Office sponsors the Christian School Recruitment Conference each February. Approximately 140 administrators and principals from many states and some foreign countries gather to interview and hire new teachers for their schools. This Conference will give you many opportunities to find a place of service after you graduate. In addition, the Career Office maintains a file of miscellaneous information about various Christian schools across the country. This file, too, may provide you with a contact that could lead to many years of active service for the Lord.

VII. BJU: AN AFFORDABLE EDUCATION

Enclosed is an expense sheet detailing the cost of attending Bob Jones University. When you compare our charges to those of other private colleges, we think you will be pleasantly surprised. We believe we offer a student more value for his dollar than anyone else in America.