

# COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

# TEACHER EDUCATION



## SPECIAL EDUCATION 7-12

UNK's teacher education department has been the backbone of the educational system since its beginning as Nebraska State Normal School in 1905. This extensive history of educating Nebraska's educators brings an unmatched reputation and legacy that our graduates take with them to their schools and throughout their careers. The Special Education 7-12 program at the University of Nebraska at Kearney is a premier undergraduate program that will prepare students to work with children with special needs from 7th through 12th grade. Students get in the classroom early and often, and our close partnership with Kearney and area schools gives students numerous opportunities to interact in both early practicums and student-teaching experiences. We know the value of hands-on learning and we are here to guide you in these field experiences.

### Traits for Success:

- Love for teaching
- Love for continued learning
- Has classroom management skills
- Sets high standards for students
- Is able to work well with others and in a team environment
- Able to give concise directions and set clear objectives
- Is a well-rounded communicator
- Creative and imaginative
- Knowledgeable of the course material
- Engaging and enthusiastic
- Able to adapt
- Organized and prepared
- Warm and caring

**“It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge.”**

-Albert Einstein

## Alumni profile

“I wanted to make a difference for children who were struggling. Everyone has something to offer. No matter how smart you think you are or how much you know, there is always something new your students are going to teach you,” said Joee Beckman, a 2016 UNK graduate from Minden, Nebraska.



**JOEE  
BECKMAN**

While at UNK, Beckman student-taught at Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools. “I had an incredible experience. This school is the exact opposite of everything I am used to which really pushed me to experiment in the classroom and collaborate with other teachers.” Beckman is employed by Wilcox-Hildreth as a special education para-educator. She works one-on-one and with small-group supports in math and reading.

“UNK taught me that there are many options and possibilities for students with disabilities everywhere, and it is my job as their teacher to help them advocate for themselves.”

### Teaching may be right for you if you have...

- The ability to work effectively with others
- A willingness to share academic competence
- A passion for working with children or youth

**SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHING SUBJECT ENDORSEMENT**

**FOUR YEAR CLASS SCHEDULE: BACHELOR OF ARTS IN EDUCATION**

The schedule is a guideline for progress toward a degree. Consult with your academic adviser.

<p><b>Semester 1 (15 credits)</b>                  ENG 102GS Writing and Research                  SPCH 100GS Fundamentals of Speech                  TE 100GS Teaching in a Democratic Society                  PSCI 110GS Introduction to American Politics                  Approved HIST GS course</p>	<p><b>Semester 2 (16 credits)</b>                  BIOL 103GS General Biology                  PE 150GS Healthy, Wealthy and Wise Portal Course - Any 188GS                  ART 100GS Art Structure                  MATH 102 College Algebra</p>
<p><b>Semester 3 (16 credits)</b>                  PHYS 100GS Physical Science/Lab                  TE 206 Instructional Technology and the Preservice Teacher                  Approved ECON, PSY, SOC, or GEOG                  Approved ENG course                  TESE 330 Collaboration, Consultation, Co-Teaching</p>	<p><b>Semester 4 (16 credits)</b>                  TE 204 Typical/Atypical Growth and Development                  TESE 461 Legal Issues in Special Education                  Academic Concentration</p>
<p><b>Semester 5 (12.5-14.5 credits)</b>                  Capstone Course – Any 388GS                  TE 318 or TE 319 and TE 320                  TESE 437 Medical Aspects of Individuals with Disabilities                  TESE 462 Assessment and IEP                  TESE 474 Field Experience</p>	<p><b>Semester 6 (17 credits)</b>                  TESE 475 Preparing Adolescents                  TESE 479 Teaching Social Skills                  TESE 487 Teaching Financial Academics to Individuals with Exceptional Needs                  Academic Concentration (9 hours)</p>
<p><b>Semester 7 (17 credits)</b>                  TESE 463 Instructional Strategies                  TESE 464 Field Experience with K-8                  TESE 467 Behavioral Interventions 3                  TESE 468 Assistive Technology 2                  TE 306 Reading and Inclusion in K-12                  TESE 476 Transitional Issues                  Elective</p>	<p><b>Semester 8 (12 credits)</b>                  TE 400 Student Teaching</p>

**Important Information:**

**Praxis:** The Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators Tests are required for certification in Nebraska and are part of all undergraduate education programs at UNK. The Praxis Subject Assessments are also required for certification in Nebraska.

**AETP:** Nebraska’s Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program provides forgivable loans to eligible students who are working toward initial certification.

**Student-Teaching:** Arrangements are made for students who qualify to complete their student-teaching requirement in schools in Nebraska and other states. UNK teacher candidates will complete 12 credits of student-teaching. Teaching candidates who pursue more than one endorsement will be required to complete more hours.

**Scholarships:**

- Dr. Jack L. Campbell Memorial Scholarship Fund for Special Education
- Kristine Everitt Memorial Scholarship
- Donald L. and Betty J. Grassmeyer Fund
- Ella E. Hahlweg Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Kearney Sertoma Club Endowed Scholarship
- Edna Larsen Memorial Scholarship
- Carol “Sweley” Windhorst Scholarship
- More at [http://www.unk.edu/offices/financial\\_aid/continuing-student-scholarships.php](http://www.unk.edu/offices/financial_aid/continuing-student-scholarships.php)

**Career Opportunities:**

After completing this program students will be qualified to teach in public or private schools from 7th through 12th grade.

For more information, contact:

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**STUDENT PROFILE – KINSLEY LARKINS**

“My passion is working with kids and improving the lives of others in any way possible, so special education has my heart. I have worked in the area as a para so I have no doubt in my mind that this is the right career for me,” said Kinsley Larkins, a junior from Sutton, Nebraska.

When choosing where to attend college, Larkins said her choice was clear. “UNK is widely known for being the best school to attend if your major is education,” she said.

Larkins said the professors in the education department have given her insight, knowledge and pushed her to excel. “I believe that professors do an amazing job by help each of us achieve our goals, and believing in us. I love how personable that each professor is,” she said.

After graduation Larkins plans to pursue teaching while completing a master’s program.