Create learning experiences that matter.

Special Education is the practice of educating students in a way that addresses their individual differences and special needs. Educators help individuals with special needs achieve a higher level of personal self-sufficiency and success in school and in their community which may not be available if the student were only given access to a typical classroom education.

Teaching English to speakers of other languages transforms the lives of students by giving them the gift of language comprehension that will allow them to be an active participant in an English-speaking country or in careers that require English speakers. Becoming a TESOL certified teacher is the gateway to teaching English as a second language in K-12 schools by being a highly qualified teacher.

The Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, with an Emphasis in Special Education & TESOL

The BS in Elementary Education, with an emphasis in Special Education & TESOL, focuses on engaged, experiential learning that introduces and supports instructional opportunities that orient and improve the development of sound learning communities and supports classrooms of diverse student populations and abilities. Students are exposed to a variety of course content platforms, opportunities for student research and community collaborations and partnerships. Educator candidates actively engage in unique practicum experiences in the studio school model for clinical practice.

The Special Education endorsement may be added by passing the appropriate area exam. You’ll also earn an additional credential in second language learning (TESOL) that will make you highly qualified and marketable.

Upon completion of the program, graduates will be well prepared to become a community educator who can impact all students in a wide variety of settings, and with a much broader understanding of education’s role in society. Our graduates make a collective impact as faculty members in the differentiated staffing model, with many hired directly into the studio schools or districts where they complete their clinical preparation.
Fully accredited.
The Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education at UMSL is earned through our fully accredited College of Education which provides Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education certifications. Additionally, our counseling programs are accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs and our school psychology program is accredited by the National Association for School Psychology.

Preparing for an ever-changing world.
The College of Education offers a variety of programs that lead to exciting and rewarding career opportunities. Our faculty, staff and community partners are committed to providing experiences to build the knowledge and skills needed for individuals to be successful in multiple educational settings and occupations. These careers include teachers, principals, and district superintendents; teachers and administrators for informal education organizations like museums, zoos and nature centers; counselors and mental health professionals for schools, hospitals, corporate employee assistance programs, clinics and private settings; and postsecondary leaders and instructors for community colleges, career technical schools, and four-year colleges and universities.

The college hosts many centers and initiatives that enhance student experiences in our programs and works with more than 36 different public, private and charter schools throughout the region. We also sponsor eight charter schools.

Serious education. Serious value.
The BS in Elementary Education is designed to provide specialized knowledge, skills and training in a flexible format. You’ll learn from highly qualified educators and researchers who hold terminal degrees from some of the world’s most prestigious academic institutions.

The University of Missouri–St. Louis provides the knowledge, resources, tools, skills and support students need to be successful in our programs. Our comprehensive student support services include workshops, tutoring and career services to help you develop skills and strategies to be successful in the classroom and beyond. UMSL welcomes transfer students and our transfer specialists will assist you with getting the most transfer credits possible. We’re also committed to increasing access to higher education, and as such, UMSL is consistently ranked number one in affordability in the St. Louis region.

Learn more at coe.umsl.edu