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Special Education – Learning Disabilities

What does a special education–learning disabilities major study?

The special education-learning disabilities major at Coastal Carolina University prepares students for South Carolina teacher licensure in learning disabilities grades pre-kindergarten through 12 (PreK-12). Students majoring in special education will focus on the disability area of Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD). Study in the core areas of English, math, science and social studies as well as art, music and health prepares students for content they will be expected to teach in public schools. To prepare for classroom interaction, students in the special education-SLD program receive extensive preparation in child growth and development, technology, exceptional learner characteristics and differences, instructional strategies and planning, learning environments and social interactions, language and reading, assessment, collaboration, and professional and ethical practice.

Why study special education–learning disabilities at Coastal Carolina?

- The Spadoni College of Education is nationally accredited by NCATE (National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education) as well as the South Carolina Board of Education.
- Students receiving a degree from Coastal Carolina University and South Carolina licensure can teach in all 50 states.
- The special education-learning disabilities program includes extensive clinical experiences in area schools, beginning in the first semester of study in education and continuing through the internship experience at the end of the program. Clinical field work begins with a focus on guided observation experiences, followed by expectations for individual, small group, and whole-class instruction.
- A degree in Special Education will present graduates with opportunities to fill shortages in an area of critical need.
- Coastal Carolina University offers three student organizations for education majors: the South Carolina Education Association Club (SCEA); the national education honor society, Kappa Delta Pi (KDP); and the campus chapter of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC Club).

How are students admitted to the program?

Candidates may complete a formal application for admission to the professional program in teacher education (PPTE) when they have completed at least 60 hours of college level coursework and have met the following requirements:

- Earn at least a 2.5 cumulative GPA;
- Earn a “C” or better in ENGL 101, ENGL 102 or 211, EDUC 111, and EDUC 204;
- Pass all three areas of Praxis I or meet the exemption policy;
- Successfully clear a criminal background check; and
- Complete a Professional Behavior and Dispositions Self-Evaluation submitted in Live Text.

Candidates are reviewed for acceptance by the Portal I Faculty Committee.

What kind of courses do special education–learning disabilities majors take?

EDLD 440	Managing the Learning Environment and Behavior
EDLD 477	Research, Trends and Issues in Learning Disabilities
EDLD 381	Collaborative Practice and Communication for Special Education

Whom can I contact for more information?

- Gayle Disney, Ed.D., Coordinator of the Special Education program, 843-234-3460 or disneyg@coastal.edu
- You can also find more information at www.coastal.edu/education.