The Vision

The teacher education unit faculty at SUNY Plattsburgh engages in the professional development of educators at both the undergraduate and graduate level. Our purpose is to prepare educators who are competent, qualified, and caring relative to NYSED standards; who are anchored in the university’s commitment to the liberal arts; and, who endeavor to practice effective pedagogy, reflect critically upon teaching and the learning process, and exemplify ethical, human and democratic principles within a complex technological and global society.

The shared vision reflects our commitment to diversity and technology across the curriculum, and dedication to preparing our education majors to work with students with culturally and ethnically diverse backgrounds and students with disabilities—all students.

The core elements of the shared vision are summarized in nine themes to prepare competent, qualified, and caring teachers:

- Content in Context
- Learning Environments
- Technology
- Assessment
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Recursive Learning
- Collaboration
- Modeling
- Multiculturalism and Diversity

The M.S.Ed. in Special Education

The major purpose of the graduate program in Special Education is to prepare master teachers capable of meeting the educational needs of students with mild and moderate disabilities in one of four areas: Birth to Grade 2, Birth to Grade 6, Grades 1 to 6, or Grades 7 to 12. In all four programs, teachers develop the skills necessary to work in self-contained, resource, and inclusive classrooms in both public and private school settings. The Birth to Grade 2 program also provides teachers with the information and experience needed to work with infants and toddlers within the home, preschool, and/or kindergarten environments.

Advantages of Our Program

- Gain an additional teaching certificate(s): With national attention focused on reforming education for all students, SUNY Plattsburgh prepares you to help students with disabilities meet high standards.
- Study Full-time or Part-time
- Study at Convenient Hours: Courses are offered in the afternoon and evening so that our candidates may work as substitute or full-time teachers during the regular school day. Some of our classes are offered in a web-based format through distance learning so that they can fit into many people’s busy schedules.
- Learn from Experienced Faculty

SUNY Plattsburgh

SUNY Plattsburgh’s Main Campus is located in a small city on the shores of Lake Champlain, bordering the Adirondack Mountains and one hour from Lake Placid; Burlington, Vermont; and Montreal, Canada. The Branch Campus in Queensbury is ideally located for those who reside in the greater Albany area. Easy access to recreation, arts, and entertainment make living in the region unique and enriching.
The Programs

The M.S.Ed. in Special Education degree programs require between 36 and 48 credit hours, depending on the program chosen. The prerequisites, courses, credits, and practica experiences required vary depending on the student’s prior education.

- **Birth to Grade 2 (36 credits)**
  - **Prerequisites:**
    - B.S. or B.A. in Elementary/Childhood, Secondary/Adolescence, or Special Education/Teacher Hearing & Speech
    - Provisional or initial certification in elementary/childhood, secondary/adolescence, or special education/teacher hearing & speech

- **Birth to Grade 6 (48 credits)**
  - **Prerequisites:**
    - B.S. or B.A. in Elementary/Childhood, Secondary/Adolescence, or Special Education/Teacher Hearing & Speech
    - Provisional or initial certification in elementary/childhood, secondary/adolescence, or special education/teacher hearing & speech

- **Grades 1 to 6 (39 credits)**
  - **Prerequisites:**
    - B.S. or B.A. in Elementary Childhood Education
    - Provisional or initial certification in elementary/childhood education

- **Grades 7 to 12 (39 credits)**
  - **Prerequisites:**
    - B.S. or B.A. in Secondary/Adolescence Education
    - Provisional or initial certification in secondary/adolescence education

**Capstone Project**

All candidates must complete a capstone portfolio and portfolio defense.

**Admission Requirements**

- Appropriate preparation at the baccalaureate level;
- Completed Graduate Study Application with required supporting materials;
- Evidence of a 2.5 undergraduate GPA on a 4.0 scale;
- Evidence of superior achievement in courses most closely allied with the student’s teaching and/or certification area(s);
- Three letters of recommendation that address your ability to take part in a graduate program in education (At least 2 of the letters should be from college faculty);
- Statement of purpose indicating why you want to enter this program;
- Copy of your teaching certificate at the elementary and/or secondary level OR a written explanation of how all NYSED requirements (including exams) for such a certificate will be completed prior to matriculation. You cannot be admitted into the program until you have passed all NYSTCE exams; and
- Availability of program openings.

**Financial Aid**

Several forms of financial aid—including the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) for New York State residents, Federal Direct Loans, and college work-study awards—are available to qualified graduate students. The college also offers a limited number of scholarships and assistantships. Access the following web page for more information on graduate assistantships: www.plattsburgh.edu/admissions/graduate/assistantships/.

The Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant (TEACH) is a new federal grant for graduate students who intend to teach in public or private elementary or secondary schools that serve students from low-income families. For information, please go to www.studentaid.ed.gov/.

Part-time employment opportunities exist on campus and in the community.

For more information, please email: finaid@plattsburgh.edu.