MAJORING IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

Many children with disabilities require special education to provide academic and behavioral access to the general education curriculum. Federal and state legislation mandates free, appropriate, public education for all individuals with disabilities, birth through 21. Children with emotional and behavioral disorders, intellectual disabilities, or with physical, health, or sensory impairments may need specialized services, and the Department of Educational & Clinical Studies prepares professional educators to provide these services.

Special educators and related personnel are unique people; they see first the child and then a disability; they provide individual support to students, families, and general education teachers on effective methods and strategies. Doing so is a challenging, rewarding, and—yes—an exhausting job, but few careers offer such a thoroughly satisfying feeling of knowing you have helped a child accomplish something today that could not have been done yesterday.

THE CURRICULUM

The Department of Educational & Clinical Studies offers a Generalist program of study at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. The Generalist Program focuses on teaching students with disabilities in general education or resource room settings. A semester of student teaching is required to complete the program.

At the graduate level, the department offers Master’s degrees with areas of emphasis in Applied Behavior Analysis, Autism, Emotional and Behavioral Disorders, Intellectual Disabilities, Early Childhood Special Education, and Gifted. The department also offers a doctoral degree (Ph.D.) with leadership preparation in Special Education.

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CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to the many teaching positions available for graduates in Special Education, job openings exist in hospitals, mental health centers, recreation programs, and other state and community agencies. Professional educators are also being sought to teach children who are gifted.

“Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.” - John Dewey

EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Involvement with the local chapter of the Council for Exceptional Children and other professional organizations allows special education majors the opportunity to become involved in various professional activities, such as planning and implementation of seminars, workshops, and conferences at the local, regional, and national levels.

FACILITIES AND FACULTY

UNLV’s Department of Educational & Clinical Studies is widely recognized as one of the most progressive programs in the nation. Faculty members, plus graduate assistants, have come to UNLV from the most respected institutions of higher learning in the United States. The faculty are active in research and publication in the field of special education, early childhood education, and related areas of scholarship. Each faculty member is dedicated to helping students develop into capable and productive individuals. The department also provides special research, services, and professional preparation through research with faculty.

THE UNLV CAMPUS

UNLV is committed to academic excellence in each of its more than 200 undergraduate and graduate programs. Following a decade of unprecedented growth in enrollment and facilities, the campus is now focusing its resources on those qualities which make a university great: its academic offerings, its faculty, and its students. All academic programs at UNLV are fully accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities.

UNLV is located on a 332-acre main campus and two satellite campuses in dynamic Southern Nevada. The university is classified in the category of Research Universities (high research activity) by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.