

Checklist of Steps to a Career in Special Education

These steps are based on typical characteristics of prospective teachers. Your specific steps may vary.

	High School Student	SLCC Education Student	College Student	Paraeducator	Career Changer
Decide what area in special education (SP ED) to teach (Early Childhood, Mild/Moderate, Severe, Sensory Impairments)					
Volunteer in community and/or school SP ED programs	X	X	X	X	X
Get involved in service-learning activities (High School, Community of Caring/Peer Leadership Teams, University service centers)	X	X			
Join a club for future teachers (Teachers of Tomorrow, Future Educators)	X	X	X		
Take the right courses					
Make sure you are taking courses that will help you attend the university of your choice	X	X			
Make sure your courses are transferable and count toward your major (check with an Academic Advisor)		X	X	X	X
Have your transcript reviewed by the university SP ED Academic Student Advisor or a Program Advisor (Early Childhood, Mild/Moderate, Severe, Sensory)		X	X	X	X
Find SP ED teacher recruitment programs					
Contact Utah State Office of Education (USOE), Utah Personnel Development Center (Paraeducator career pathway program support, subject specific programs (mild/moderate, severe)			X	X	X
Take the required tests					
ACT	X				
GRE					X
PRAXIS I		X	X	X	X
Demonstrate subject matter skill competency by completing approved SP ED courses as premajor or non-matriculated status			X	X	X
Decide the best program of study for you					
Traditional (B.S. degree and K-12 SP ED Teacher License)	X	X	X	X	
M.P.P. accelerated (intense program, usually three semesters) (combined second bachelor or master's degree and SP ED Early Childhood or K-12 SP ED Teacher License in specific area)					X
Apply for Financial Aid					
FAFSA	X	X	X	X	X
JPJEP	X	X	X	X	X
Loans	X	X	X	X	X
TEACH Grant		X	X	X	X
Scholarships	X	X	X	X	X
University-based programs	X	X	X	X	X