

# Department of Special Education

## Contact Information

CHOU, Pei-Jung / YANG, Ju-Yu  
 Tel: +886-2-7749-5024 / +886-2-7749-5023  
 Email: peijung@ntnu.edu.tw / luhyu@ntnu.edu.tw  
 Website: <https://www.spe.ntnu.edu.tw/index.php/en/main/>

## Introduction

To improve the educational opportunities and quality of education for the limited number of students with special needs is the commitment of the Department of Special Education. The master's program was established in 1986 with the approval of the Ministry of Education, and the bachelor's program was established in 1990. The doctoral program was later established in 1992. The Department of Special Education has been cultivating a multitude of teachers and professionals in the field of special education for over 30 years.

Our features are as follows :

- Emphasis on the integration of academic and practical knowledge
- Comprehensive training for professionals of all levels
- Active promotion of academic research
- Developing international perspective

## Instructional Objectives

- Foster exceptional special education professionals
- Expand special education academic research
- Lead the comprehensive improvement of special education and raise social awareness of students with special needs



## Degree Requirements

The undergraduate program is an approved teacher education certification program. Depending on their career goals, students can select either the teacher certification training or non-teacher training track. Students in the teacher certification track complete 138 credits to attain professional qualifications to teach special education. Students in the non-teacher training track do not complete certification courses and therefore only complete 128 credits. Students in the department can further specialize in education for students with disabilities, education for gifted or talented students, or a combination of two majors. Depending on their career interests, students can also pursue minors or dual majors in other subjects.

Theory and practice are equally emphasized in all courses in graduate programs, which are divided into disability and gifted tracks. Each semester, a seminar is held that is centered on one special education topic. Scholars and experts from various fields are invited to share their professional experience and research findings concerning the trends in and relevance of the topic. Both faculty and students participate in these seminars to create a robust academic atmosphere and implement situational education.

## Feature of the Curriculum

### • Undergraduate program

All students in this department participate in teacher education programs with specialties covering the educational, psychological, sociological, and medical aspects of special education. Students must select to join one of the following three elective divisions in the department: Division of Disabilities, Division of Giftedness, or the Division of Disabilities and Giftedness. They can also choose an additional specialty if they would like to focus on a subfield and join the Division of Hearing Impairment, Division of Visual Impairment, Division of Emotional/behavioral Disorders, or Division of Severe Disabilities.

### • Postgraduate and doctoral programs

Comprehensive course plans are offered, including the theoretical foundations of special education, the administrative system of special education, courses in the Division of Physical and Mental Disabilities, and courses in the Division of Intellectual Giftedness. These programs focus on helping students become high-level practitioners or researchers in the field of special education.



## Career Prospects

- Teachers and administrative personnel of special education: the demand for special education teachers in Taiwan is predominantly in secondary schools and includes teaching students with physical or mental disabilities and students with giftedness. However, considering the increasing international demand for teachers, students could expect to use what they have learned to continue their education, obtain relevant qualifications, and find work abroad in educational positions.
- Resource room counselors: resource room counselors at colleges and universities.
- Specialists at special education institutions or foundations.
- Specialists in relevant fields: opportunities include becoming speech-language pathologists, vocational rehabilitation specialists for people with disabilities, occupational therapists, or physical therapists after completing continuing education.
- Researchers or university and college teachers: researchers in the field of special education can also become university or college teachers after obtaining a higher degree.