

Academic Programs

Associate in Arts Degree with a Concentration in Education, Special (690)

The special education concentration will prepare students to transfer to a four-year institution to earn a bachelor's degree in special education and teacher licensure (K-21) in the state of Illinois.

Transfer Considerations

General education and major field requirements vary significantly by intended transfer institution. Students who have already chosen the university to which they plan to transfer should consult that institution's catalog or department advisor and an SVCC academic advisor in planning their program. Transfer guides for some universities are available at svcc.edu/transfer.

1. **IMPORTANT NOTE ON GENERAL EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS:** The courses recommended in the suggested program are beyond the minimum requirements necessary for completion of general education courses for an Associate of Arts degree. The general education recommendations listed below are for a student's full licensure requirements. Some of these additional courses may be completed after a student transfers, even with an Associates of Arts degree. Licensure information is based on the Illinois State Board of Education's administrative rules for teacher education preparation.

Competitive Admissions

Since admission is competitive, completing the recommended courses does not by itself guarantee admission.

1. A minimum grade point average of 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale), dependent on the transfer school requirements, is required for program admission.
2. Students will also need to achieve a C or better grade in all general education coursework.

Special Considerations

1. This program is designed for those who plan to teach exceptional children in the pre-school, elementary, intermediate, or secondary levels. Special education endorsements include Learning Behavior Specialist 1 (LBS 1), teacher of students who are blind or low vision and teacher of students who are deaf or hard of hearing. Information regarding Illinois standards for Professional Educator License is available on the Illinois State Board of Education Website at isbe.net.
2. **Criminal History Check Policy:** Illinois law requires Illinois school boards to conduct a criminal background investigation on applicants for employment. This law also prohibits the employment of a person who has been convicted of committing or attempting to commit any one or more of a number of offenses. At present, offenses include first degree murder; any Class X felony; juvenile pimping; soliciting for a juvenile prostitute; exploitation of a child; obscenity; child pornography; harmful material; criminal sexual assault; aggravated criminal sexual assault; offenses set forth in the Cannabis Control Act; and crimes defined in the Illinois Controlled Substance Act. Employment must be denied whether the offenses and/or conviction occurred inside or outside the state of Illinois.

Students who perform classroom observations through coursework at Sauk Valley Community College may be required by the selected school/site to undergo a criminal background check prior to placement. Students may be denied at any observation site based on the results of that check.

Students who feel their criminal background may exclude them from observation or employment should seek counseling with SVCC faculty or advising staff early in their program to determine how it may affect their participation and eligibility.

Program Contacts at Sauk Valley Community College

- Academic Advising, 815-835-6354
- Amanda Eichman, Professor of Education and English, 815-835-6319

Minimum Total Credit Hours - 64 Hours

Suggested Program

First Semester - 18 Hours

- Fine Arts 3 Semester hour(s)
- EDU102 - Computer Education for Teacher (3 Semester Hours)
- EDU105 - Prep for Careers in Education (2 Semester Hours)
- ENG101 - Composition I (3 Semester Hours)
- FYE101 - First Year Experience (1 Semester Hours)
- MAT110 - Math for Elementary Teachers I (3 Semester Hours)
- PSY103 - Introduction to Psychology (3 Semester Hours)

Second Semester - 15 Hours

- Fine Arts/Humanities 3 Semester hour(s)
- EDU220 - Educ of the Exceptional Child (3 Semester Hours)
- ENG103 - Composition II (3 Semester Hours)
- MAT111 - Math for Elementary Teacher II (3 Semester Hours)
- PSC163 - Am Government & Politics (3 Semester Hours)

Third Semester - 17-18 Hours

- Personal Development 2 Semester hour(s)
- *Physical Science 3-4 Semester hour(s)
- Humanities 3 Semester hour(s)
- **Electives 3 Semester hour(s)
- ***Social/Behavioral Science 3 Semester hour(s)
- COM131 - Intro to Oral Communication (3 Semester Hours)

Fourth Semester - 13-14 Hours

- *Life Science 3-4 Semester hour(s)
- **Electives 4 Semester hour(s)
- ***Social & Behavioral Sciences 3 Semester hour(s)
- **EDU electives 3 Semester hour(s)

Footnotes

- *One lab science required.
- **Recommended Electives include EDU 210, 221, 224, 275, PED 220, additional approved mathematics courses.
- ***Choose from GEO 122, ECO 211 or 212, PSY 200 or 214, HIS 221 or 222.