

What are students saying?

"I love the size of my classes in the Early Childhood Special Education Program."

—Brook Shaffer

"You are not just a face in the crowd, teachers take the time to get to know their students and become invested in helping them reach their goals."

—Liz Clavelle

"The experience of doing research with my advisor, peers and members of the Burlington community allowed me to learn about real issues in education and bring attention to problems that families, educators and children are facing."

—Rachel Warren

"The Early Childhood Special Education Program at UVM has opened up a whole new world to me; one that I can't imagine not being a part of now that I am. After it changed my life, it made it possible for me to help change the lives of families and children. I am now entering the field as a recent graduate and feel incredibly prepared to meet the challenges and joys that are ahead of me."

—Anneke VanFossen



For more information about the Masters of Special Education Program with Endorsement in Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education at UVM, visit our web site at:

www.uvm.edu/cess/doe/med_earlychild_specialed

To read an article about the grant go to:
www.uvm.edu/cess/news/uvm-awarded-grant-interprofessional-education-ipe-project



For information regarding the grant or the program, please contact:

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THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT
**EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL SERVICES**

**The
Masters
in Special
Education
Program
at the
University
of
Vermont** with Endorsement in Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education was awarded a \$1.25 million grant from the United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. This grant will cover the full tuition for scholars (36 credits over two years at the in state tuition rate) in exchange for agreeing to work in the field of special education after graduation.



Interprofessional Education (IPE) Project

The Interprofessional Education (IPE) Project will ensure the interdisciplinary preparation of master's level candidates across the two disciplines of Speech Language Pathology (SLP) and Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) leading to endorsement. Faculty and candidates across two different graduate programs housed at the University of Vermont will collaborate in shared coursework, group assignments, coordinated clinical opportunities, and structured joint experiences.

The Interprofessional Education Project Emphasizes:

- **Providing collaborative and interdisciplinary services:** Services for children with disabilities require professionals representing multiple disciplines to work together to implement services.
- **Employing evidence-based practices:** Services for children with disabilities based on the best-available empirical evidence and practices promotes positive outcomes for children.
- **Working with children and families who are culturally and linguistically diverse who experience disability:** There is a pressing need for professional preparation programs to meet the needs of children with disabilities who are refugees and immigrants.
- **Applying data based decision making practices:** Providers must know how to collect and analyze data to inform data-based decision making to accelerate child progress.

Critical personnel shortages persist nationwide for qualified EI/ECSEs

For the past two decades there has been a chronic shortage of special education teachers in the United States (Sindelar & Leko, 2013).

The demand for EI/ECSEs exceeds the available supply (Boe et al., 2013).



While the national need for special educators is predicted to increase by 6% by 2022, the need for early childhood special

educators is predicted to increase by 16% during the same period (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2014).

The numbers of graduates from EI/ECSE preparation programs can't satisfy this need (McLeskey & Billingsley, 2008, National Clearinghouse for Professions in Special Education, 2011).



Nationally Recognized Program

The Masters in Special Education Program with Endorsement in EI and ECSP is aligned with Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) professional standards and the Division for Early Childhood (DEC) initial special education early childhood specialty set and is nationally recognized.

