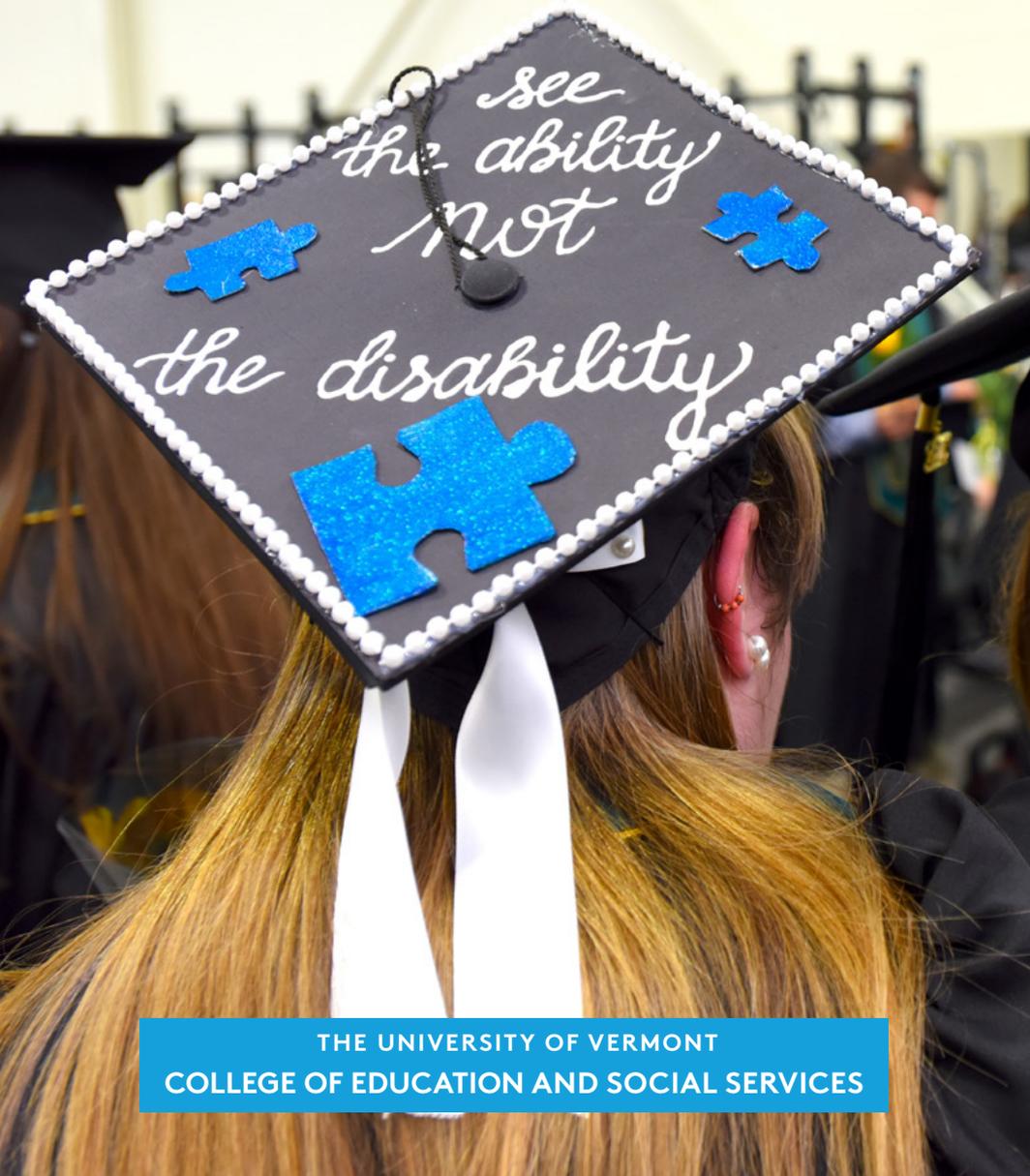


Special Education Graduate Program Pathways at UVM



THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES

A photograph of a male teacher with curly brown hair, a beard, and glasses, wearing a maroon sweater. He is sitting at a desk and looking towards a young student with short blonde hair, who is seen from the back. The classroom background includes a chalkboard with papers pinned to it, a window, and a colorful abstract painting on the wall.

OUR VALUES

We seek to promote the success of all students by implementing evidence-based practices in inclusive settings, promoting high achievement for all students, and creating a collaborative, strengths-based climate in which students with disabilities, their families, and school staff feel welcomed, respected, and supported.

Our programs are dedicated to the belief that all students have worth and dignity, and that schools and communities can create environments in which all students can achieve individually appropriate and meaningful learning outcomes.

Special Education Graduate Program Pathways at UVM

Master of Education (M.Ed.) Degree

Our nationally accredited graduate programs at UVM are designed to meet the needs of both experienced and prospective professionals who are seeking an advanced degree. We offer licensure (cross-categorical) and non-licensure pathways leading to a Master's of Education (M.Ed.) degree in special education (K through grade 12) or early childhood special education (birth through age 6).

Signature themes include inclusive education, collaboration, family-centered practice, a supports model approach to understanding disability, evidence-based practice, and data-based decision making. Throughout the program you will enhance your collaborative skills with parents, teachers, administrators, human service providers, and employers.

Our faculty work closely with you to design an individualized program plan aligned with your professional interests and career goals.

MULTIPLE PATHWAYS

Special Education, Grades K-12 Pathway (Initial Licensure or Added Endorsement)

Our program provides you with the dispositions, knowledge, and skills you need to work with students in grades K -12 who have diverse strengths, needs, talents, and abilities. Options lead to Vermont licensure: K-Grade 8, Grades 7-12, or K-Grade 12. Advanced options can lead to added endorsements (i.e., Intensive Special Education Teacher; Special Education Consulting Teacher).

Early Childhood Special Education, Birth - Age 6 Pathway (Initial Licensure or Added Endorsement)

Over the last decade, the demand for Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) teachers has increased by more than 100%. The number of graduates in ECSE preparation programs does not yet satisfy this need which is projected to continue into the foreseeable future.

Non-Licensure Pathway

If you are not seeking an initial license or added endorsement, you can pursue an individually-designed program leading toward a Master's degree in special education suited to your career goals and personal interests. This option is meant for:

- Licensed teachers and special educators seeking to extend their skills and knowledge
- Other professionals planning to work with students who have disabilities in roles other than as a special educator (e.g., recreation, community living, employment).



“For me, one of the highlights of the special education graduate program was forming relationships with my professors and colleagues. Being surrounded by people who are as passionate about education as I am was inspiring and definitely contributed to my growth as an educator. No matter where my future takes me, I think I’ll always feel like I can come home to UVM.”

—Lindsay Sanderson '16, Pomona, NY



“As a student in the Early Childhood Special Education master’s degree program, I had the opportunity to work with both university and community professionals in holistic learning environments. My mentors challenged me to pursue my research interests, and now support me in my goals to become both a leader in the field of education, and advocate for children and families.”

—Winnie Looby '13, Burlington, VT



Community-Based Learning

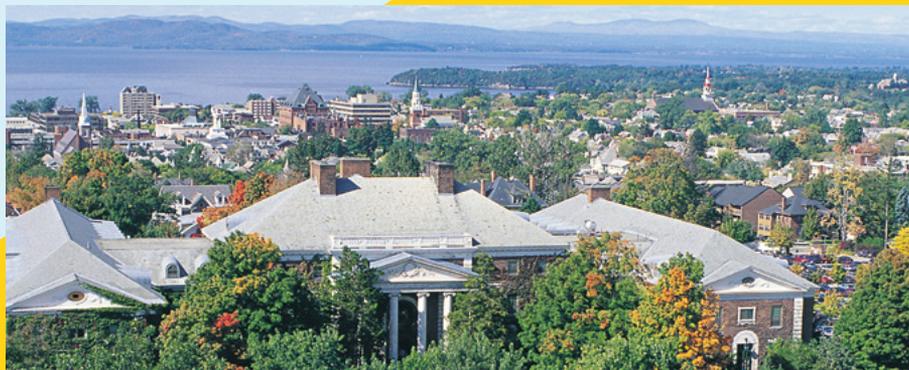
We are proud to provide candidates with authentic community-based learning. Local professionals and families of children with disabilities have a strong presence in our classes. Our students are welcomed into their field experiences by professionals dedicated to sharing their expertise with UVM scholars. Field-based experiences are designed to enable candidates to put theory into practice within supportive, high-quality environments that value both diversity and inclusion.



Evidence-Based Practice

Students leave our program with the skills needed to access research-based evidence and to judge its value in order to serve children and families with diverse needs.

Some of our students choose to engage in research projects with faculty on a range of topics, such as the inclusion of young children with disabilities in the least restrictive environment, and special education services for children who are English language learners.



Cultural, Linguistic and Economic Diversity

You will participate in field experiences and projects designed to increase cultural competence. Our faculty are intentional about ensuring field experience in schools that serve Burlington's diverse community. You will get hands-on experience



servicing families and children who are experiencing disability, English language learners, refugees, and/or living with poverty. Given the diverse community characteristics of Burlington, UVM is in the ideal setting for preparing teachers who are committed to inclusion and social justice.

Our Faculty and Opportunities for Research

Our professors have extensive experience in special education, both in practice and in research. Faculty research contributes to the identification and use of evidence-based

practices in special education and informs our curriculum and teaching methods. There are opportunities for motivated students to get involved with research projects.

"My time in the special education graduate program laid a solid foundation of theory, law, and practice for work in the field. Equally important is the supportive professional community I still have access to today. I regularly contact other graduates and former teachers for ideas, feedback, and resources. This has been invaluable for me."

—Melissa Kilbourn Mintzer '14, Burlington, VT

Personalized Support in a Collaborative Community

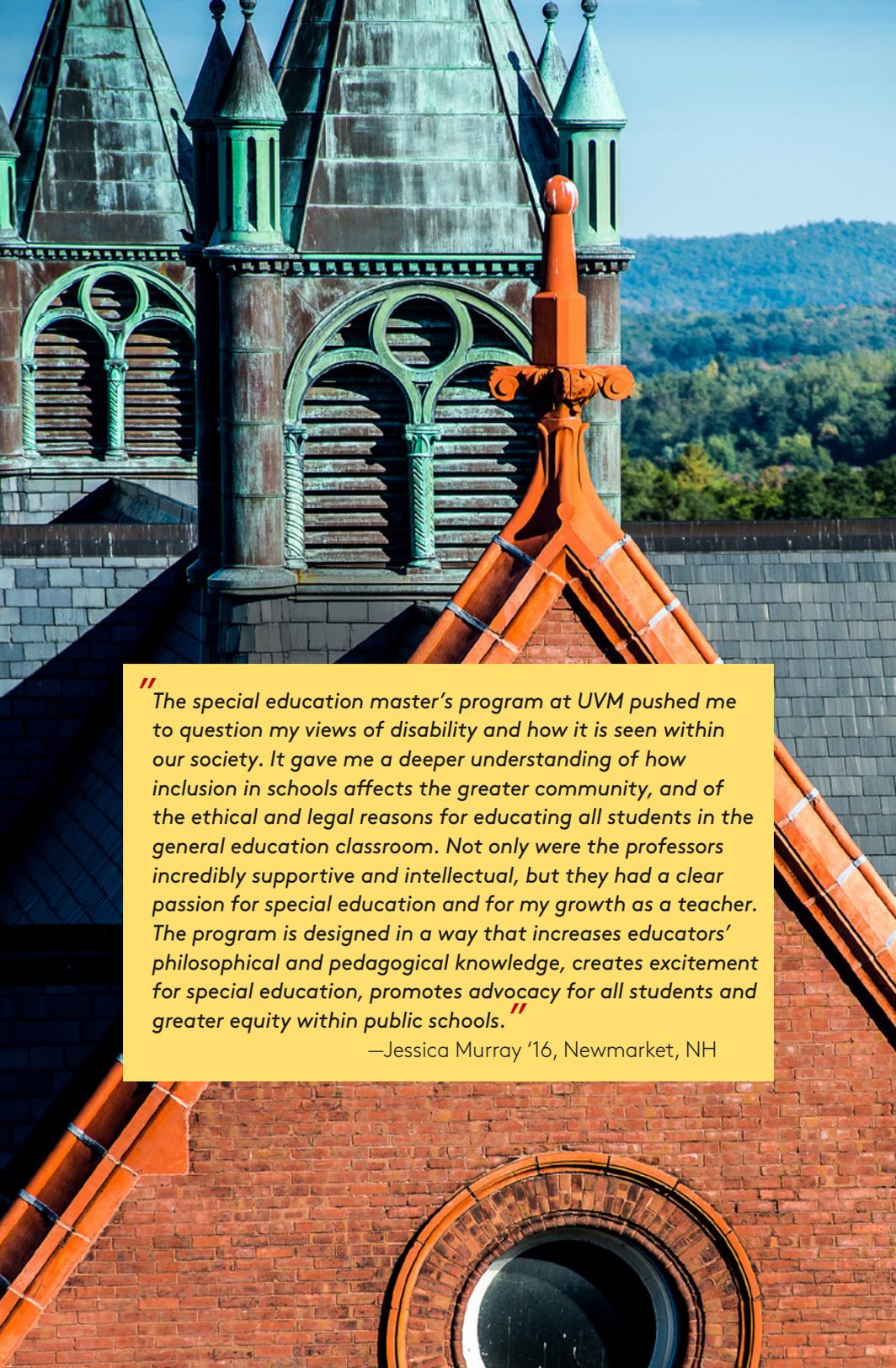
Students enjoy the strong sense of community and collaboration in our program. You will have plenty of support and mentoring from our faculty who are dedicated to your success. You will develop meaningful and enduring connections with classmates, faculty, field partners, and others. These relationships can yield long term benefits in your professional career.

Accommodating Your Schedule

We know that making a career change is a big step. To accommodate working professionals, our graduate courses are offered in the late afternoon and evenings during the school year, allowing students who are working during the school day to complete the program while being employed.

National Accreditation

Our Master's degree program licensure pathways are accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP, formerly known as NCATE).



“The special education master’s program at UVM pushed me to question my views of disability and how it is seen within our society. It gave me a deeper understanding of how inclusion in schools affects the greater community, and of the ethical and legal reasons for educating all students in the general education classroom. Not only were the professors incredibly supportive and intellectual, but they had a clear passion for special education and for my growth as a teacher. The program is designed in a way that increases educators’ philosophical and pedagogical knowledge, creates excitement for special education, promotes advocacy for all students and greater equity within public schools.”

—Jessica Murray '16, Newmarket, NH



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Making  Difference