The purpose of the Bachelor of Science in Education (B.S.E.) degree with a major in Special Education K-12 is to prepare teachers in the development of knowledge, skills, and dispositions needed to positively impact services and supports for students with special needs.

The Department of Elementary, Literacy, and Special Education (ELSE) at the University of Central Arkansas is now offering a Bachelor of Science in Education degree with a major in Special Education K-12. This is consistent with UCA’s mission which states that “UCA is committed to excellence through the delivery of outstanding undergraduate and graduate education that remains current and responsive to the diverse needs of those it serves.” The program is designed to meet Arkansas Department of Education Special Education K-12 licensure requirements as evidenced by program alignment to the Arkansas Competencies for Special Education K-12 Teachers, Arkansas Teaching Standards, and Council for Exceptional Children Standards. Candidates will gain expertise in the area of special education including foundations, development and characteristics of learners, individual learning differences, instructional strategies and planning, learning environments, guidance and behavior management, communication, working with families, assessment, and professional and ethical practice.

The B.S.E degree consists of a four year, eight semester, 122 credit hour curriculum. Courses will be delivered primarily in a traditional university classroom setting using technology to enhance instruction. Unique features of the program include: (1) non-traditional class schedule to meet the needs of today’s working students; (2) 51 credit hours of the program’s professional education courses are included in other teacher preparation programs (K-6 elementary education, middle-level education, and secondary education) consequently not only providing the opportunity to prepare special and general education teachers together, but also to make certain future special education teachers have a solid foundation of general education practices; (3) Field experiences (early field and internships) are designed to expose the candidates to a range of disabilities, ages, educational settings, as well as rural and urban communities; and (4) program faculty are experienced and highly qualified with over 50% being dually certified in general and special education.

For updates on program timeline and other departmental news go to: www.uca.edu/else