

**PROPOSAL: Create the Special Education K-12 major**

**Background**

The Undergraduate Studies Council of the Faculty Senate has approved the creation of the Special Education K-12 major offered by the Department of Special Education and Literacy Studies in the College of Education and Human Development.

In May 2025, the Michigan Department of Education released new standards and certification option for special education teachers titled "Special Education Teacher". This certification options has two benefits-- candidates are able to be credentialed in multiple disability areas under one certification, and candidates are no longer required to have a general education certification as a base for the special education certification. This led K-12 special education faculty to develop a BS program leading to the "Special Education K-12" certification that results in students getting 16 additional credit hours of K-12 special education content, pedagogy and clinical experiences, while simultaneously reducing time to degree by 1 semester. This new program will have a 4 year completion time, as compared to the current PK-3 + LD major, which has a 4.5 year completion time. Further, the "Special Education Teacher" credential certifies candidates to teach in a wider range of special education classroom settings than the PK-3 + Learning Disabilities major currently does.

**Recommended Action**

Create the Special Education K-12 major.