

Special Education

Average for teachers of special education
\$55,060
per year

1

41% of all special education students are diagnosed with a learning disability

2

93% of employers use LinkedIn

3



there is a growing need for elementary and middle school special education teachers

4

Careers

Adaptive Special Education Teacher
Assistive Technology Practitioner/
Specialist
Behavior Education Team Supervisor
Behavior Specialist
Community Development Coordinator
Community Employment Program
Specialist
Disability Student Services Specialist
Early Intervention Specialist*
Early/Pre-K to 12
ESE Teacher for high-incidence
disabilities: Resource and/or Inclusion
ESE Teacher for low-incidence
disabilities: Sensory, Developmental,
and/or Multiple/Severe Disabilities
IDD Care Coordinator
Occupational Therapist*
Orientation and Mobility Specialist
Physical Therapist*
Private Learning Center Teacher
Residential Instructor/Manager
School Counselor*
Special Education Instructional Coach
Speech-Language Pathologist*
Teacher Assistant
Teacher/Specialist: Autism Spectrum
Disorders
Teacher/Specialist: Emotional or
Behavioral Disorders

*may require additional studies

Strategies for Success

- Take the required state exams for Virginia to qualify for licensure.
- Consider gaining Qualified Mental Health Professional (QMHP) status to diversify your marketability.
- Learn about the state reciprocity requirements for the state you intend to be in after graduation.
- Contact the Liberty Licensure office to make sure you are taking the necessary classes and that you are progressing through the four gates toward licensure.
- Teach in volunteer and part-time capacity. Include all teaching experience on your resume to show dedication beyond coursework and required practicums.
- Consider an internship at a Day Treatment or private special education center.
- Sign up for Christian Services (CSER) opportunities that are geared toward teaching and classroom experiences.
- Get exposure to different age groups to assess what the best fit is for your personality and gifts.
- Join associations linked to your area of study.
- Join LinkedIn and add education groups to your profile.
- Consider dual endorsement to make yourself more marketable.
- Get to know your practicum lead teachers and professors; they can be your job references and can help you find job opportunities.

Statistics: 1) [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), 2) [National Center for Learning Disabilities](#), 3) [CNet](#), 4) [Big Future: The College Board](#)

Associations

Council for Exceptional Children
www.CEC.Sped.org

National Organization for Human Services
www.NationalHumanServices.org

National Association of Special Education Teachers
www.NASET.org

International Association of Special Education
www.IASE.org

National Association of Private Special Education Centers
www.NAPSEC.org

Association of Christian Schools International
www.ACSIGlobal.org

American Educational Research Association
www.AERA.net

National Education Association
www.NEA.org

Holland Codes

The Holland Code system is designed to connect individuals with the career field that best fits their personality. The system scores the test taker on six separate scales: Realistic (R), Investigative (I), Artistic (A), Social (S), Enterprising (E), and Conventional (C). The two or three highest scores represent an individual's strongest attributes. Here are a few examples of positions associated with this major:

- Special Education Teacher (SIA)
- Occupational Therapist (SR)

The FOCUS 2 Career Assessment utilizes these Holland Codes and is a free resource to Liberty students. Customized with Liberty's majors, assessment results are matched to career options and majors offered at Liberty. To access this free resource visit www.Liberty.edu/Focus2.

Resources

On-Campus and Local Resources

- Access the [Christian Service webpage](#) to see where other students have served. Some areas include serving in the local church in the following:
 - Education and Educational Assistance
 - Children's Ministries
 - Education, Tutoring and Mentoring
 - Intellectual Disabilities
- Become a member of [Phi Delta Kappa](#).

Online Resources

Visit the website of the following organizations:

[The Federal Resource Center for Special Education](#)
[A.J. Pappanikou Center for Developmental Disabilities](#)
[All Parents Engaged in Learning](#)
[Educating Parents of Extra-special Children](#)
[National Information Center for Children & Youth with Disabilities](#)
[Office of Special Education Programs, U.S.](#)
[American Federation of Teachers](#)
[Virginia Department of Education](#)
[National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education](#)
[Department of Defense Schools \(DODEA\)](#)
[Bureau of Labor Statistics: Occupational Outlook](#)

The Washington Fellowship

Consider spending a semester doing an internship with The Washington Fellowship. Potential locations include [Reading Partners](#), [Jill's House](#), [Oyster-Adams Bilingual School](#), and K-12 schools, among others. To learn more visit: www.Liberty.edu/Washington.

Sample Resumes

For a variety of sample resumes visit the [Liberty University Career Center](#).