

Special Education Advising

As a student in the Special Education program, you will be working with a team of three different advisors: a professional advisor, and two faculty advisors – one in your Comprehensive Science and Arts for Teaching (CSAT) major, and one in your Special Education (Sp. Ed.) major. It will be important to work with each of these advisors to ensure that you stay on track in your program and fulfill all of the requirements needed for special education certification. Each of these advisors will play an important role along your path to Special Education certification.

Professional Advisors:

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) Academic Advising Center provides professional advisors familiar with the requirements for the Special Education program.

We encourage you to meet with a professional advisor to discuss your majors, review degree requirements, and develop an academic plan. Your professional advisor focuses upon the part of the Special Education program that is completed before you begin in the College of Education. Professional advisors can also help connect you to appropriate support and academic success services or discuss extra – or co-curricular experiences such as study abroad, student organization membership, volunteering or service learning.

To schedule an appointment with a professional advisor, please call the CLAS Academic Advising Center at 616-331-8585, or stop into the advising center in C-1-140 MAK.

Faculty Advisors:

Once you have declared your major, you will be assigned to a faculty Advisor in each of your majors. To confirm who your faculty advisors are, you can refer to your myPath degree evaluation in myBanner:

1. Log into myBanner
2. Select “Student”
3. Select “Student Records”
4. Select “myPath degree evaluation...”

The faculty advisors are listed on the left side of the top portion of the degree evaluation directly across from the majors. The top advisor listed is your CSAT advisor and the second one is your Sp. Ed. advisor.

Once you know the name of your assigned faculty advisors, you can find their office locations, email addresses and phone numbers by using the “People Finder” on the GVSU website homepage.

CSAT Major Faculty Advisor:

Your CSAT major faculty advisor has expertise in specific content areas within the CSAT major and/or special needs populations, and pedagogy. This advisor can help you with any academic advising questions, and will also complete the “Major Advisor Recommendation Form” for your application to the College of Education. It will be important to start meeting with your CSAT advisor early in your program so that he or she will know you well enough to provide a thoughtful and accurate recommendation.

All faculty members hold open office hours to meet with students. Call or email your faculty advisor directly or contact your major academic department to determine your advisor's office hours. If you are not available during your faculty advisor's office hours, you often can arrange another time to meet.

Special Education Major Faculty Advisor:

Your Special Education advisor will be able to answer questions about the special education program and has expertise concerning the art and science of teaching, certification, endorsement choices, and special needs populations, as well as student assisting and student teaching. In other words, they focus on admission requirements and the College of Education portion of the Special Education program.

You can contact this advisor directly, or call the College of Education at 616-331-6650.