**Progression requirements**
For teacher certification, students must apply for admission and be accepted to the College of Education and P-16 Integration prior to enrolling in teacher certification courses, except for EDFR 2301 which is open to all students.

**Graduation requirements**
In addition to the graduation requirements listed in the UTRGV 2018-2019 Undergraduate Catalog, demonstration of proficiency in a language other than English is required at the undergraduate level equivalent to a minimum of six credit hours. Proficiency can be demonstrated by a college credit exam, a placement test approved through the UTRGV Department of Writing and Language Studies, and/or up to six credit hours of college-level language coursework.

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### Additional Info

#### Specialization Coordinators

- **Early Childhood Specialization**
  Dr. Irasema Gonzalez
  irasema.gonzalez@utrgv.edu

- **Special Education Specialization**
  Mrs. Julia Pecina
  julia.pecina@utrgv.edu

- **Bilingual Education Specialization**
  Dr. Zulmaris Diaz
  zulmaris.diaz@utrgv.edu

- **English as a Second Language (ESL) Specialization**
  Dr. Michael Guerrero
  michael.guerrero@utrgv.edu

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### Contact Info

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<th>Degree Info</th>
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To prepare highly skilled professionals to assume roles and positions in teaching, research, educational leadership, and human development to contribute to the educational achievement of children in elementary settings.

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### Degree Info

**INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES (BIS)**
*Elementary Education Special Education*  
Special Education Specialization  
Catalog: 2019-20

**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND P-16 INTEGRATION**
## Blueprint Experiences

### First Year
- **Milestones**
  - UTRGV has a Writing Center and a Learning Center. Make it a point to visit them!
  - Complete your core English classes (section 010) during your first year.
  - Complete 30 credit hours every year in order to graduate in 4 years.
  - Shot for a GPA of 3.0.
  - Take MATH 1414 in your first year.
  - Stay informed via BBL PATH (Pre-Admission Teacher Hub) and REMIND text messages.
  - Meet with your academic advisor and bring your orientation folder with you to every session!
  - Choose a major with confidence—Visit my.UTRGV.edu and check out MyMajors!
  - Visit a faculty member during their office hours and ask a question about class.
  - Classes fill up fast. When registration opens, be sure to register on the first day for your group.
  - Cold or flu getting you down? We have Student Health Services on campus with free office visits.
  - Look for a service-learning course like EDPR 2301! For guidance, visit Engaged Scholarship & Learning Office.
  - Participate in a campus-sponsored community service project.
  - Ask a student in class to study with you.
  - Set up your profile on the Engagement Zone through my.UTRGV.edu.
  - Provide volunteer service to community organizations, or schools.
  - Attend a departmental program.
  - Join a student organization! Consider BESO, Pi Delta Kappa, Student Council for Exceptional Children, or visit Vlink (utrgv.edu/vlink) for options.
  - Create a résumé and set up your profile on the Handshake icon: [My.UTRGV.edu](http://www.UTRGV.edu).
  - Got summer plans? Visit Career Center and ask about places to do some job shadowing.
  - Research shows that students who work on campus perform better than those who work off campus. Look for a job on Handshake!
  - Check your UTRGV email for the daily Messenger.
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### Second Year
- **Milestones**
  - Complete major foundation classes. Visit www.UTRGV.edu/cop and click “Educator Preparation & Accountability” for more info.
  - Complete 30 credit hours.
  - Apply to the Teacher Education Program prior to the application deadline.
  - Substitute teach.
  - Want to explore different careers? Check out MyMajors!
  - Come ready with course suggestions and questions when you visit your academic advisor.
  - Visit the Communication Hauser Lab for help with your speeches.
  - Trouble making your tuition payment? The Financial Aid Office can help. Payment plans and emergency loans are also available.
  - To find undergraduate research opportunities, visit the Engaged Scholarship & Learning Office.
  - Consider attending the LeaderShape Institute or attend the Engaged Scholar Symposium.
  - Look at study abroad opportunities! Consider going to Italy!
  - Check out a cultural campus or community event such as HESTEC or FESTIBA.
  - Join another student organization. Visit Vlink for option.
  - Check out a campus event that offers free lunch—bring a friend!
  - Update your resume in Handshake and have it reviewed.
  - Visit the Career Center site to find a job fair to attend. At the event, approach a recruiter and discuss internships.
  - Explain to someone how your academic program aligns with your strengths and interests.
  - Check out the College of Education and P-16 Integration website for postings on career/graduate school www.UTRGV.edu/cop.
  - Think about three people you can ask for letters of recommendation (professors, mentors, advisors, supervisors, etc.). Give them at least two weeks’ advance notice!
  - When is the deadline for your graduate school application? Visiting the program admissions webpage. Most do not accept late applicants!

### Third Year
- **Milestones**
  - Complete 30 credit hours.
  - Have you landed an internship or acquired research experience? This is the year to make it happen.
  - Seek out research opportunities within your major and join a professional organization such as Association of Teacher Educators.
  - Check DegreeWorks to make sure you are on track for graduation next year.
  - Apply for internship and/or job shadowing opportunities. Discuss this with your advisor, faculty mentor, or Career Center.
  - Do show off your research, service-learning or creative works at the Engaged Scholar Symposium!
  - Sharpen your writing skills! Visit the Writing Center or become the secretary for your Engaged Scholar Symposium!
  - Consider serving on a campus life/community committee or become a student leader and make a difference. Visit Vlink or speak with your Student Government Association for more information!
  - Travel the world! Look into study abroad opportunities at Office for International Programs & Partnerships.

### Fourth Year
- **Milestones**
  - You must have at least a 2.75 GPA.
  - You have a plan for after graduation.” If this describes you, great! If not, visit your Faculty Advisor or Career Center!
  - Register for your Capstone/ senior/ portfolio project: Clinical Teaching.
  - Complete at least 30 credit hours to graduate.
  - Submit your application(s) for graduate school, an apprenticeship, or for full-time employment.
  - Engage in an independent study project or an academic internship to complement your major, such as Clinical Teaching.
  - Discuss future plans with your faculty mentor or advisor that includes employment, finances, and other life goals.
  - Apply for graduation one semester prior to your anticipated date. Visit the Academic Advising Center to ensure you are on track.
  - Continue to present research or creative works at the Engaged Scholar Symposium.
  - Set up an informational interview with an individual (especially an alumnus) currently in the field you aspire to work in.
  - Identify employers of interest and seek them out at job fairs, online, at on-campus information sessions, staffing agencies, etc. The Career Center can help.
  - Before a job interview, schedule a mock interview with the Career Center or speech coaching with the Communication Hauser Lab.
  - Have you received your acceptance for graduate school or an employment offer? If not, network: talk to faculty, the Career Center, and get on LinkedIn.
  - Formulate and implement a strategy for life after graduation: attend career fairs, graduate fairs, apply to fellowships, etc.
  - Update your information with Alumni Relations. Enjoy alumni events, and continued access to Career Center services!
  - Remember to do your exit loan counseling on studentloans.gov.

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### Apply What You Learn

### Global, Campus & Community Engagement

### Life After Graduation

### CAREERS

- **Teaching**
  - Pre-school
  - Elementary
  - Middle
  - Secondary

- **Administration**
  - Principal
  - Superintendent

- **Special services**
  - Reading
  - Title 1
  - Guidance counseling
  - School psychology
  - School social work
  - Occupational therapy
  - Physical therapy
  - Audiology and speech pathology
  - Library/Information services

- **Special services continued**
  - Special education
  - Career/Technical education
  - Self-Enrichment
  - English as a second language
  - Curriculum supervision
  - Subject area supervision

- **Tutoring services**
- **Test preparation**

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For additional info, visit the Career Center website and check out "What Can I Do With This Major?" [www.utrgv.edu/careercenter](http://www.utrgv.edu/careercenter)