

## Checklist of Steps to a Career in Special Education

These steps are based on typical characteristics of prospective teachers. Your specific steps may vary.

	High School Student	SLCC Education Student	College Student	Paraeducator	Career Changer
<b>Decide what area in special education (SP ED) to teach (Early Childhood, Mild/Moderate, Severe, Sensory Impairments)</b>					
Volunteer in community and/or school SP ED programs	X	X	X	X	X
Get involved in service-learning activities (High School, Community of Caring/Peer Leadership Teams, University service centers)	X	X			
Join a club for future teachers (Teachers of Tomorrow, Future Educators)	X	X	X		
<b>Take the right courses</b>					
Make sure you are taking courses that will help you attend the university of your choice	X	X			
Make sure your courses are transferable and count toward your major (check with an Academic Advisor)		X	X	X	X
Have your transcript reviewed by the university SP ED Academic Student Advisor or a Program Advisor (Early Childhood, Mild/Moderate, Severe, Sensory)		X	X	X	X
<b>Find SP ED teacher recruitment programs</b>					
Contact Utah State Office of Education (USOE), Utah Personnel Development Center (Paraeducator career pathway program support, subject specific programs (mild/moderate, severe)			X	X	X
<b>Take the required tests</b>					
ACT	X				
GRE					X
PRAXIS I		X	X	X	X
Demonstrate subject matter skill competency by completing approved SP ED courses as premajor or non-matriculated status			X	X	X
<b>Decide the best program of study for you</b>					
Traditional (B.S. degree and K-12 SP ED Teacher License)	X	X	X	X	
M.P.P. accelerated (intense program, usually three semesters) (combined second bachelor or master's degree and SP ED Early Childhood or K-12 SP ED Teacher License in specific area)					X
<b>Apply for Financial Aid</b>					
FAFSA	X	X	X	X	X
JPJEP	X	X	X	X	X
Loans	X	X	X	X	X
TEACH Grant		X	X	X	X
Scholarships	X	X	X	X	X
University-based programs	X	X	X	X	X