

***In the 2000-2001 school year, the nation was short 36,700 certified special education teachers.***

***(U.S. Department of Education, 2000)***

### **The University.**

The Southwest Texas State University (SWT) is a multipurpose university with an enrollment of over 23,000 students. Located at the foot of the Texas Hill Country, SWT enjoys a setting that is unique among Texas universities. The beauty of the crystal clear San Marcos River and many sprawling cypress and pecan trees on the campus add to the charm of this picturesque locale. Located 30 miles south of Austin and 50 miles north of San Antonio, SWT maintains an atmosphere where faculty and students take the processes of teaching and learning seriously. SWT, a member of the Texas State University System, is an affirmative action, equal opportunity education institution.

General SWT admission information, application forms and graduate catalogs are available from:

The Graduate College  
Southwest Texas State University  
601 University Drive  
San Marcos, Texas 78666-4605  
tel: (512) 245-2581 • fax: (512) 245-8365  
email: [gradcollege@swt.edu](mailto:gradcollege@swt.edu)  
<http://www.gradcollege.swt.edu>

North Austin Office  
tel: (512) 219-5798 • fax: (512) 219-5790  
<http://www.mtc.swt.edu>



**Q Looking for direction?**

**A Consider a new destination.**

***Career Alternatives in Special Education  
at Southwest Texas State University***

### Critical personnel needs in special education.

The shortage of trained, qualified special education teachers is critical, not only in the United States, but also in Texas. The Career Alternatives in Special Education (CASE) Program at Southwest Texas State University is a post-graduate full-certification program with an optional master's degree in special education whose purpose is to alleviate the severe shortage of special education teachers in the state of Texas, and nationwide. The CASE program works to:

- recruit individuals who are interested in a second career
- train them in teaching methods and special education techniques
- facilitate their placement in a paid internship with mentor supervision
- support them after certification in special education teaching positions in central Texas

### What is special education?

Special education is individualized education, designed to address the unique needs of students with disabilities and to help them achieve their maximum potential. All students with disabilities in the United States now have access to public schools and a right to education. Special education students include those with learning disabilities, speech or language impairments, mental retardation, behavioral disorders and emotional disturbance, physical impairments and special health care needs, hearing loss, visual impairments, and other low-incidence disabilities. Special education can mean the difference between a child's success and failure in school, and later in life.

### How will the training be conducted?

The CASE program is a full-certification program involving 16-17 certification courses to be typically completed in one and one half years of full-time attendance at Southwest Texas (SWT) State University (with part-time attendance as an option). After successful completion of these courses, you may bypass student teaching, enroll in a two-semester internship, and be hired in a central Texas school district on a full-time teacher's salary. SWT personnel will continue to supervise you for one year, and a mentor teacher will be assigned to facilitate your first year of teaching. Upon successful completion of the internship, and after passing the state certification tests, you will obtain an all-level Texas Teaching Certificate in the field of Generic Special Education.

### Why should I consider this program?

Aside from the professional and personal rewards afforded those who work with children with disabilities, consider the following points:

- You will receive excellent comprehensive training and supervision for starting your new career.
- You will go through this program with other individuals interested in a mid-life career change. As a group, you will receive support and instruction from faculty and staff at SWT.
- At the completion of this coursework, you may obtain a Master's Degree in Special Education.\*
- As an individual, you can contribute maturity and varied life experiences to this unique profession, a combination that prepares you for becoming a powerful teacher.
- With such a severe shortage of special education teachers in Texas, you will be well respected and greatly valued in your new career.

### How do I qualify for this program?

This program is designed for post-baccalaureate students seeking initial all-level certification in special education in Texas. Applicants must meet the following initial requirements:

- a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college/university
- a cumulative G.P.A. of 2.75 on the last 60 hours of undergraduate work, or 3.0 on 24 post-graduate hours

If you are interested in a career in special education, and wish to find out more about the CASE program, please contact:

Dr. Brenda Scheuermann (BS10@swt.edu)

512-245-2267 to begin courses in fall semesters

Dr. Marilyn Goodwin (MG21@swt.edu)

512-245-7723 to begin courses in spring semesters

Dr. Jo Webber (JW10@swt.edu)

512-245-8389 to begin courses in summer sessions

Department of Curriculum and Instruction  
Southwest Texas State University  
San Marcos, Texas 78666-4616

or visit our web site at:  
[www.swt.edu/education/case](http://www.swt.edu/education/case)

\* Note: You must meet all Graduate School requirements to qualify for Master's Degree.