CAREERS FOR

Special Education

MAJORS

UNM's Special Education Program focuses on training educators to be able to teach both general and special education. UNM's program has a strong emphasis on a classroom setting that allows students with different abilities to learn alongside one another. While learning general education, the students in this program will be trained to develop teaching environments for persons with exceptionalities, students at risk of failing school, and other students who are facing significant life challenges.

The program is a dual-licensure program, allowing students to be licensed to teach special education (K-12) and elementary education (K-8).

Licensure is required in most states and will vary from state to state. New Mexico's Licensure Requirements for Elementary Education (K-8). New Mexico's Licensure Requirements for Special Education (K-12).

Industries & Target Employers

- Education: Public or private elementary school teacher. Licensure will allow individuals to teach K-8 or special education (K-12).
- Childcare: Independently owned businesses, corporate childcare services, military childcare, religious organizations, daycare centers, etc.
- Community Services: Not for profit, YMCA, YWCA, Camp programs, Residential Treatment Facilities, Rehabilitation programs, workforce programs, specialty group programs, adoption agencies, etc.
- Continuing/Certificate Programs: GED programs, Adult Education, Continuing Education programs, Board of Education, community colleges, professional associations, specialty populations (Prison or Correctional systems, Veteran's Reintegration programs, K-12 after school programs, etc.)
- Government: Research, Federal, state or city government, teaching, evaluation
- Social Services: Residential treatment facilities, youth services, senior services, Welfare and Health Departments, case management
- Business: HR, Corporations, Marketing, Test-taking companies, publishers, sales, customer service organizations, not for profit organization, Training and Development, consultation, etc.
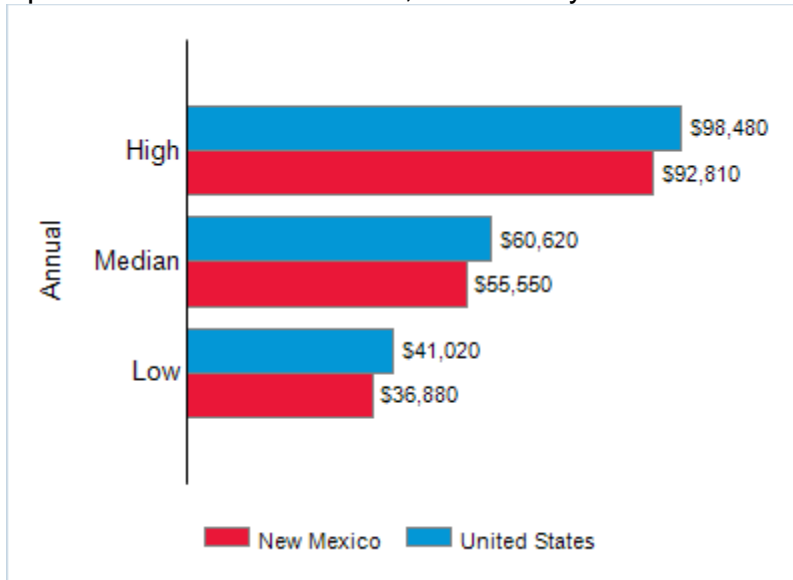
Top School Districts/Employers*

- Albuquerque Public Schools
- University of New Mexico
- Rio Rancho Public Schools
- Los Lunas Schools
- Santa Fe Public Schools
- Gallup-McKinley County Public Schools

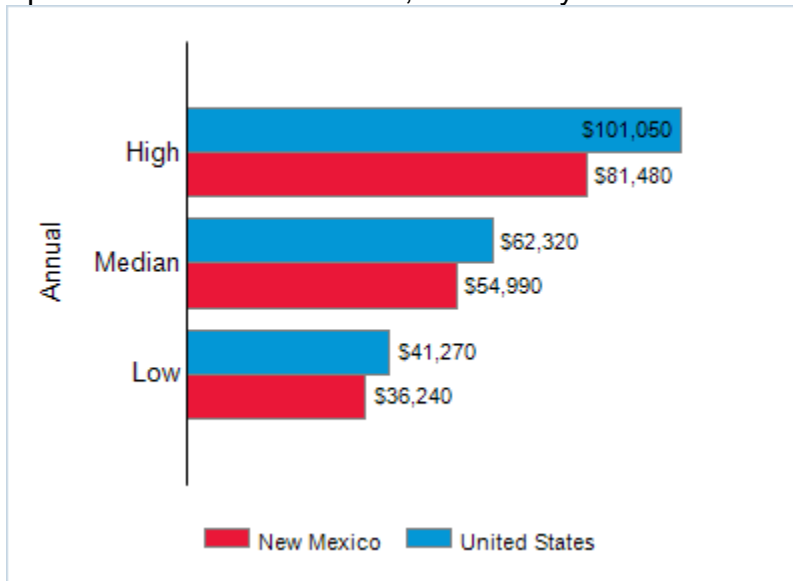*These school districts/employers have hired UNM graduates from UNM College of Education and Human Sciences.

Salary Information

Special Education Teachers, Elementary School*

High
- United States: $98,480
- New Mexico: $92,810

Median
- United States: $60,620
- New Mexico: $55,550

Low
- United States: $41,020
- New Mexico: $36,880

■ New Mexico ■ United States

*Career One Stop

Special Education Teachers, Secondary School*

High
- United States: $101,050
- New Mexico: $81,480

Median
- United States: $62,320
- New Mexico: $54,990

Low
- United States: $41,270
- New Mexico: $36,240

■ New Mexico ■ United States

*Career One Stop

Tips

- Don't wait until you are in your last semester of student teaching to discover whether teaching special education is a good fit for you! Conduct an informational interview with a teacher and job shadow in the classroom to get a real picture of this career field.

- UNM Career Services holds the Educators' Fair every April. New Mexico and out-of-state schools recruit students at this event, often doing interviews on site. Register for Handshake to see what school districts are attending the April fair.
- Get your resume looked over by a CDF before attending the educators' fair. Information about upcoming career fairs are found on Career Services' website.

Learn More
American Association of School Administrators
American Federation of Teachers
American Library Association
Council for Exceptional Children
National Association of Special Education Teachers
National Center of Alternative Certification
National Education Association
New Mexico Department of Education
UNM College of Education
Register for Handshake: Jobs for Lobos
O*NET; Special Education Teachers, Secondary School
Occupational Outlook Handbook; Special Education Teachers
UNM Student Activity Center - Special Education Graduate Student Organization
Buzzfile Employers by Major; Education

Questions?
Visit UNM Career Services in person! See our website for onsite walk-in hours.
Email onlinecareerservices@unm.edu or call 277-2531 to schedule an appointment.