OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW:
Special Education teachers improve educational pursuits for those with special needs.

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS:
All states require teachers to be licensed. Licensure granted by the State Board of Education for that state. See desired requirements for each state.

Consult O*Net for more information on the specific KSAs (Knowledge, Skill, Ability) that are needed for special education teachers.

GENERAL WORK ACTIVITIES:
- Classroom Management
- Communication (verbal and nonverbal) skills
- Creativity and Design
- Curriculum Management
- Decision-Making Abilities
- Knowledge of educational theory and techniques
- Performance and Evaluation Management
- Report writing and gather information
- Strategic Planning
- Teaching and Instruction Methodology
- Training

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO:
The UNM Special Education program offers certificate, undergraduate and graduate degree programs through the Department of Educational Specialties.

INDUSTRIES & TARGET EMPLOYERS:
A variety of employers specifically recruit UNM students and alumni. Consult UNM's Lobo Career Connection for a complete list of employers and current job postings. Speak with a Career Development Facilitator at the UNM Office of Career Services for help with identifying employers or additional resources for your occupation of choice.

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.

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.)

Education: K-12, Colleges, Universities

Government:
Research, Federal, state or city government, teaching, evaluation
Social Services:
Counseling, residential treatment facilities, youth services, senior services, Welfare and Health Departments, case management

SUGGESTED STRATEGIES:
• Consider specializing with a double major, minor, or concentration in another area.
• Gain related professional experience through involvement in internships, student employment, Co-ops, and/or volunteer opportunities.
• Shadow professionals in the field to gain a better understanding of the occupation and to build relationships with professional mentors.
• Build your network and get involved on campus through student organizations and campus events. Find organizations and events at the Student Activities Center website.
• Attend career related campus events such as career fairs, company information sessions, and or career workshops.
• Students who are interested in graduate school should maintain a high undergraduate GPA and develop relationships with faculty and community leaders.
• Speak with mentors and faculty about career opportunities.
• Job leads can be found on your department’s website, list-serv, newsletters, and social media sites.

STATE AND NATIONAL WAGES:
Adapted from CareerOneStop (2013)

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*Data obtained from Career One Stop

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INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:
National Education Association  http://www.nea.org/index.html
American Federation of Teachers  http://www.aft.org/
American School Counselor Association  http://www.schoolcounselor.org/
American Library Association  http://www.ala.org/
American Association of School Administrators  http://www.aasa.org/
National Center of Alternative Certification  http://www.teach-now.org/
UNM College of Education  http://coe.unm.edu/
New Mexico Department of Education  http://www.ped.state.nm.us/

http://online.onetcenter.org  www.bls.gov/oco/