



## Why work in special education?



**A career in special education offers PURPOSE, FLEXIBILITY, and IS IN STRONG DEMAND nationwide.**

### Overview of Key Special Education Roles:

- **Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) and Speech-Language Pathology Assistants (SLPAs):** Help students develop vital communication skills in a therapeutic environment.
- **Occupational Therapists (OTs) and Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants (COTAs):** Assist students with adaptive learning and help them build skills needed for greater independence in the classroom.
- **Physical Therapists (PTs) and Physical Therapy Assistants (PTAs):** Focus on working with students to hone their motor skills and mobility.
- **Social Workers and School Psychologists:** Assist with students' mental health and behavioral concerns.
- **Special Education Teachers:** Work with students who have identified needs across education. Specialized groups include **Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH)**, or **Blind and Visually Impaired (T/VI)**.
- **Sign Language Interpreters:** Use ASL for essential communication within the school setting.
- **School Nurses:** Ensure students are healthy, safe, and ready to learn as the healthcare experts within an educational setting.

Careers in special education offer the chance to help children build lifelong skills while maintaining ongoing relationships with students, therapists, and teachers.

Whether you are exploring career paths or preparing to enter the workforce, school-based roles offer a meaningful and long-lasting impact in the lives of children and teens.



### Benefits of working in the schools as a health science major:

- Diverse work experience with children of all ages and abilities
- Opportunity to make meaningful connections and collaborate with other professionals
- Chance to build long-term rapport with students, teachers, and families
- Work-life balance with built-in breaks and summers off
- Flexible service models
- Strong job market

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