



Special Education



VANDERBILT
PEABODY COLLEGE



“The special
education department
at Peabody is **amazing**
because it is both a center
of very high quality
research and a friendly
and **nurturing**
environment.”

—*Devin Kearns, Ph.D. '10*



The Power of Peabody

- The reputation and resources of a world-class university
- A faculty renowned for its scholarship and commitment to students
- A rich and fertile environment for research
- A network of connections to support any aspirations
- A shared spirit that believes in the power and possibility of change

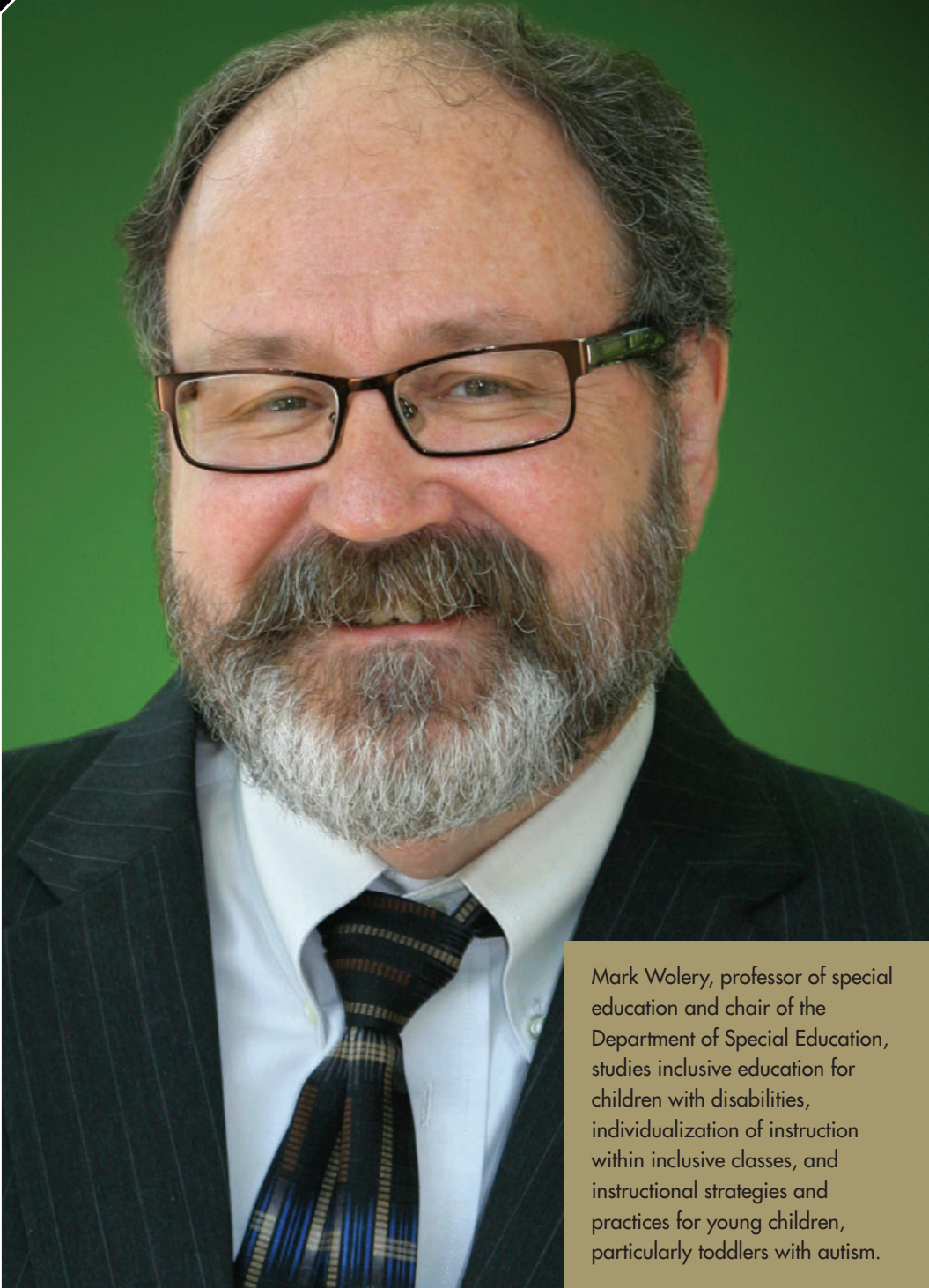
These are the elements that come together in the Department of Special Education at Vanderbilt University's Peabody College. Here you will find a rare synergy that fosters success—not just for you, as you move ahead with your career, but ultimately for the people you will serve and empower.

The skills you gain at Peabody will translate into second chances for children, adolescents and adults who have too often been told, "They can't." Your training and your subsequent engagement in the field of special education will mean, "They can." At Peabody, we honor your dedication and regard you as a worthy collaborator from the moment you join our community. As a Peabody-trained professional, you will be part of that community for the rest of your life.



U.S. News & World Report
*consistently ranks the special
education program among
the **best** in the country.*

A Conversation with Mark Wolery



Mark Wolery, professor of special education and chair of the Department of Special Education, studies inclusive education for children with disabilities, individualization of instruction within inclusive classes, and instructional strategies and practices for young children, particularly toddlers with autism.

Q. *Peabody's Department of Special Education is consistently ranked in the top echelon of all such departments in the nation. What are the factors that place you so high in the rankings?*

A. For one thing, we have an extraordinary number of faculty members who are known around the world for their research. In fact, we probably have the strongest research faculty in the nation. But we also have just as strong a practice faculty who are devoted to teacher training. The way these two groups work together, integrating research and practice, is what's so atypical and so valuable.

Q. *What do you think attracts people to this field?*

A. Historically, it was having a family member or knowing someone in the community with a disability. More and more, however, people are developing an interest in the field because they understand how effective they can be. These days, as teachers are increasingly held accountable for their performance, it's good to know that there are many tools in the special education field that result in measurable gains. At the end of the day, you can measure your own progress and work toward achieving a level of excellence.

Q. *What does it mean that your program is "competency-based"?*

A. We've analyzed what it means to be a special education teacher or researcher, and we've identified a series of areas or competency that we want our students to be able to claim. In our master's program, we have identified approximately 90 core skills, including instructional planning, assessment, collaboration, and professional and ethical practice.

Q. *What would you say makes your department unique?*

A. It is the commitment each faculty member sees to improving the lives of individuals with disabilities. The faculty is committed to conducting research to build, refine, and evaluate interventions. Not any intervention, but effective interventions reflecting the realities of classrooms; interventions informed by the needs of children and youth with disabilities; and interventions with a chance of being adopted in schools across the nation.

Degree Programs

MASTER'S DEGREE (M.ED.)

As a student in special education, you will work closely with your advisor to design a highly individualized program that combines coursework, fieldwork and written projects. Your experience will culminate in either a specialty project or thesis, both of which are designed to demonstrate your competence and knowledge in the field of special education. Students choose to specialize in one of four program areas:

- **Early Childhood.** Here you will train to work with infants, toddlers, young children, and their families as they deal with a wide range of developmental delays and disabilities, including cognitive, communication, social and physical impairments, and autism.
- **High-Incidence Disabilities.** This program is designed for those who plan to work with children and young adults with learning disabilities, behavior disorders, and mild intellectual disabilities.
- **Low-Incidence Disabilities.** The focus of this program is working with students with significant disabilities, including autism, or students who are blind or have low vision.
- **Applied Behavior Analysis Certification.** This challenging training program, which teaches the skills necessary to work effectively with individuals who have behavioral problems, is available as an adjunct to the M.Ed. program. Upon completing the program, you will be prepared to become a board certified behavioral analyst in schools, community settings, or with private agencies.

Teacher Licensure

All Vanderbilt students who seek teacher licensure are tracked through the Office of Teacher Licensure. The office collects and maintains necessary documents for students seeking initial licensure or added endorsement. When a Vanderbilt student completes a program for teacher licensure and is recommended by the appropriate faculty, the student can be recommended for a teaching license. For more information on teacher licensure, visit peabody.vanderbilt.edu/licensure.



“What distinguishes Peabody from other schools is its depth—so many outstanding faculty, so many really great students, so many different types of research projects, and so much going on in the community and nationally.”

—Ann P. Kaiser, Susan W. Gray Chair of Education and Human Development

PH.D. IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

Prepare yourself for a position of leadership in a school, college, university, research setting, or human service agency with a doctoral degree in special education. Your individually crafted program of study will consist of core requirements, augmented by a focused series of courses and competencies. You will work closely with faculty to write grants, conduct research, and write for publication. You also will be encouraged to make presentations based on your graduate work at local, regional, and national conferences, thereby developing your professional portfolio before graduation.

Select your concentration from these program areas:

- **Emotional and Behavioral Disorders**
- **Early Childhood Special Education**
- **Severe Disabilities/Autism**
- **Visual Impairments**
- **High Incidence**

For more information on master’s or doctoral programs within the Department of Special Education, visit peabody.vanderbilt.edu/special_education.xml.

Enter a World of Research

ENTER A WORLD OF RESEARCH

Extraordinary opportunities to develop your research skills await you in the Department of Special Education. Master's and doctoral students alike join in field experiences and research projects, collaborate with faculty and other students on important initiatives, participate in colloquia with experts from many disciplines, and supervise undergraduate students' field experiences. Many of our advanced students conduct research and disseminate their findings by writing articles for publication and presenting at local, regional and national conferences. Indeed, according to a study conducted by the National Institutes of Health, Peabody faculty, alumni and students are responsible for *one in five* publications that comprise the entire literature in the field of mental disabilities and psychology. At Peabody, exciting next-generation research is always going on, and as a Peabody student you will be involved in that research right from the start.

Here is just a sampling of current and past research projects in the Department of Special Education:

- Cooperative Learning and Social Skills
- Developing Evidence-Based Practices
- Early Communication Interventions
- Effective Instruction of Children with Autism
- Language Intervention
- Peer Assisted Learning
- Positive Behavior Support
- Preventing Conduct Disorders in Children's Social Behavior
- Providing Access to the Visual Environment
- Reading Comprehension Outcomes for Children with Disabilities
- Response to Intervention
- Sibling Assessment Support and Intervention
- Strategies for Training Teachers to Use Effective Practices





“What is truly special about the Peabody experience are the opportunities to learn from leaders in the field. Not only are you learning from leaders, but you are also preparing to become a leader yourself.”

—Daniel Maggin, Ph.D. '09

The resources you will find at Peabody College and Vanderbilt University are matchless. They include outstanding libraries, research centers, clinics and institutes, and an extensive network of placement sites in and around Nashville. The long and fruitful collaboration that Vanderbilt has enjoyed with local public school systems provides abundant opportunities for practica, internships and field experiences.

Among our notable resources are:

The Jean and Alexander Heard Library. 3.5 million volumes. 3 million microfilm items. 55,260 serial subscriptions in nine library units, including the Peabody Library. Indisputably one of the major academic libraries in the United States. Learn more at www.library.vanderbilt.edu.

The Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Research on Human Development. One of the top national centers for research on intellectual disabilities and related aspects of human development. Scientists and practitioners in the areas of behavior, education, medicine, genetics and neuroscience work together in unique ways to solve the mysteries of development and learning. Learn more at kc.vanderbilt.edu.

Susan Gray School. An on-campus early childhood program for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with and without disabilities. The school provides an excellent location for field-based experiences, demonstration of best practices, thesis research, and the development of innovative techniques. It is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Learn more at peabody.vanderbilt.edu/sgs.xml.

Peabody Research Institute. The institute conducts research aimed at improving the effectiveness of programs for children, youth and families. Learn more at peabody.vanderbilt.edu/pri.xml.

Next Steps

ADMISSIONS

Because we are so highly ranked, we are also highly selective. The best students in the country seek us out, aware of our ranking and already familiar with the Peabody faculty names they have encountered in research journals. We understand, however, that special education may dictate special cases for admission, and so we review each application carefully to ensure that we create a balanced and stimulating cohort who can grow together and support each other through this challenging academic experience.

Peabody College accepts applications for admission throughout the year. However, for priority consideration for admission with financial aid, your application for the fall semester should be completed by December 31. Applications received after this date will be evaluated for admission and financial aid on a space- and funds-available basis. A completed application for admission includes the following:

- Online application or traditional application form
- Official transcripts showing degree conferral
- Letters of recommendation (3-5)
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores
- TOEFL scores if you are an international applicant, unless English is your first language or you have completed a degree at an American university
- Scholarly writing sample (Ph.D. program only)

We encourage you to apply online for admission. Both master's and doctoral students can apply online by pointing your Web browser to **peabody.vanderbilt.edu/gradadmissions**. There is no fee to apply online. For additional information, paper application materials, or to arrange a campus visit, please call, write, or e-mail:

Mr. Alfred Brady
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Vanderbilt University's Peabody College
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Nashville, TN 37203
615-322-8195
E-mail: alfred.l.brady@vanderbilt.edu or
sped-admissions@vanderbilt.edu



“Peabody has provided me with great opportunities to learn in the classroom, in research settings, and in the community. I feel these experiences will make me a well-rounded and productive professional.”

—Kathleen Miller, B.S. '07, M.Ed. '08

FINANCIAL AID

Peabody annually awards more than \$12.5 million in financial aid in addition to low-interest loans to qualified students in doctoral and master's degree programs. The largest form of institutional funding is through graduate and research assistantships. Other types of financial aid include scholarships, student employment, and work/study opportunities. Many students in the department, including those at the master's level, are supported through federal training grants. New students are eligible for honor scholarships. You can learn more about financial aid opportunities at peabody.vanderbilt.edu/financialaidinfo.xml.

For more information about financial aid programs, please contact Mr. Alfred Brady at the address on page 10. For detailed information on need-based aid, contact:

Office of Student Financial Aid, Vanderbilt University
2309 West End Avenue, Nashville, TN 37203-1725
E-mail: finaid@vanderbilt.edu

LIVING

Nashville, a city of more than 1.6 million, is not only cosmopolitan, with first-rate museums, a symphony, chamber orchestra, opera, ballet, and theater companies, but is also highly livable. Comfortable, affordable housing is widely available. The quality of life on campus is outstanding as well. Named a National Historic Landmark, the Peabody campus is part of the 330-acre Vanderbilt University campus, which is a National Arboretum. To learn more about Nashville, visit www.vanderbilt.edu/nashville.

Vanderbilt's Office of Housing and Residential Affairs maintains an off-campus housing referral service at: apphost1a.its.vanderbilt.edu/housing/Main.

Vanderbilt is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and is approved by the Tennessee Department of Education, the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), and the Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI).

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In compliance with federal law, including the provisions of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, Executive Order 11246, the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, as amended, and the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, Vanderbilt University does not discriminate against individuals on the basis of their race, sex, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, military service, or genetic information in its administration of educational policies, programs, or activities; admissions policies; scholarship and loan programs; athletic or other university-administered programs; or employment. In addition, the university does not discriminate against individuals on the basis of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression consistent with the university's nondiscrimination policy. Inquiries or complaints should be directed to the Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, and Disability Services Department, Baker Building, PMB 401809, Nashville, TN 37240-1809. Telephone (615) 322-4705 (V/TDD); FAX (615) 343-4969.

SECURITY STATEMENT

In compliance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act and the Tennessee College and University Security Information Act, Vanderbilt University will provide you, upon request, an annual Security Report on University-wide security and safety, including related policies, procedures, and crime statistics. A copy of this report may be obtained by writing or calling the Vanderbilt University Police Department, 2800 Vanderbilt Place, Nashville, Tennessee 37212 or by telephone at (615) 343-9750. You may also obtain this report on our Web site at police.vanderbilt.edu/annual-security-report/



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peabody.vanderbilt.edu

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