



SPECIAL EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION DISORDERS EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

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Associate Professor*

Dr. Hagaman has been part of the SECD Family for 10 years! Her research is primarily focused in the areas of academic interventions, teachers' use of data to inform instructional decisions, and special education teacher retention.

What led you to choose a career in special education?

I was actually a piano performance major for the first two years of my undergraduate - and throughout my classes I was exposed to Music Therapy for children with disabilities and thought it might be an interest of mine. I worked one summer in a special education school and loved it! I switched my major to education.

What's the best career decision you've ever made?

The best career decision I have ever made was going to graduate school!

What are your research interests?

My broad interests are in academic interventions for students with disabilities, how current and pre-service teachers use data to inform their decisions, and the reasons why teachers stay and leave their jobs as special educators. I am also interested in finding ways to support them if they want to remain in the profession.

What are your favorite courses to teach at UNO and why?

I love teaching courses related to assessment. Many students arrive to assessment classes feeling nervous about data, math, or tests in general. I love being able to make the content accessible. I also enjoy teaching differentiation/inclusive practices to general education majors.

In teaching differentiation courses, it's fun to help general education teachers from all different backgrounds (math, science, middle school, high school, art) learn about special education and feel more confident in their ability to teach and advocate for ALL students they teach.

You have been a big part of getting the Dyslexia certificate offered at UNO. Can you tell us why you are passionate about offering this certificate to educators?

Reading is a major way that we all access information - and it's a highly complex task to engage in, to learn how to do, and to teach! Creating a series of courses that are online (which means more accessible to students and educators that are anywhere!) and intensive (8 week sessions) means more teachers can quickly access information that will help them teach/support reading and will directly help the students and children they work with.

