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“Math makes me sweat” the impact of pre-service courses on mathematics anxiety.

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Summary: We investigate mathematics anxiety amongst education majors currently enrolled as pre-service teachers in special education, deaf and hard of hearing, early childhood and elementary education. The impact of a compulsory freshmen content course and sophomore methodology course on mathematics anxiety for each education major was studied over a two year period. Results indicate that the highest level of mathematics anxiety, as measured by the revised-mathematics anxiety survey (R-MANX), occurred amongst pre-service deaf and hard of hearing teachers as they enter their training as teachers. Results reveal that certain education majors benefit more than others from mathematics training courses.

Classification: C29 B50 C76

Keywords: education majors; elementary education; anxiety; pre-service teachers; special education teachers; hearing impairments; early childhood education; required courses; program effectiveness