Howe joined the Cal State faculty in 1969 and worked in the Department of Teacher Education until his retirement in 2001. He was active on scholarship committees, summer workshops, tutoring programs, and was an advisor to the student arm of the California Teachers Association. He also worked on projects for the National Education Association.

For three years Professor Howe directed the university's Operation Fair Chance, a teacher credential program that addressed the needs of at-risk students. In the seven years prior to his retirement he team-taught classes for teacher education and special education credential students. He also was active in the Department of Teacher Education project, Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers for Technology, and was an expert in applying technology to help people with learning and physical disabilities

A native of Tell City, Ind., Howe earned his bachelor's degree in elementary