

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION IN THE FIELD OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

The doctoral program in special education utilizes a transdisciplinary approach to the preparation of special education scholars and leaders. The program is designed to support the development of doctoral students as they acquire knowledge in the fields of neuroscience, cognitive psychology, and the developmental sciences in an effort to meaningfully translate that knowledge to the most pressing issues to special education today.

The program works closely with Graduate School of Education and Human Development's Center for Applied Developmental Science and Neuroeducation to provide research and internship opportunities for students to translate and apply neuroscience research related to learning for diverse populations. Students collaborate with faculty in the areas of early intervention and early childhood education, secondary and transition to post-secondary education, culturally and linguistically diverse learners with exceptionalities, and students with various disabilities, such as those with emotional and behavioral challenges. The Center also seeks students who can advance research with transdisciplinary partners to improve outcomes for children and families.

Visit the program website for additional information.

ADMISSIONS

Admission deadlines: Fall - Rolling admissions (January 15 to be considered for merit-based tuition support)

Summer - Rolling admissions (January 15 to be considered for merit-based tuition support)

Standardized test scores: Either the GRE general test (institutional code 5246) or the Miller Analogies Test (institutional code 1047) is required. This requirement is waived for applicants who already hold a doctoral degree conferred by an accredited institution of higher learning.

Recommendations required: Two (2) recommendations (preferably one from a faculty member and the other from a professional supervisor)

Prior academic records: Transcripts are required from all colleges and universities attended, whether or not credit was earned, the program was completed, or the credit appears as transfer credit on another transcript. Unofficial transcripts from all colleges and universities attended should be uploaded to your online application. Official transcripts are required only of applicants who are offered admission.

Transcripts from institutions outside the United States must be accompanied by an official transcript evaluation from an accredited independent evaluating agency. Please be sure you request a detailed evaluation that includes all course titles, credit hours, grade-point average (GPA), United States degree equivalency, and date of degree conferral. Please see the list of acceptable foreign credential evaluation services.

Statement of purpose: Doctoral applicants are expected to write a comprehensive essay of 750 to 1,000 words stating your purpose in undertaking doctoral study at The George Washington University. Describe your academic objectives, primary and supporting field of study, research areas of interest, and career plans. Also discuss your related qualifications, including collegiate, professional and community activities, and any other substantial accomplishments not already mentioned in the application.

Doctoral applicants are expected to write a comprehensive essay of 750 to 1,000 words stating your purpose in undertaking doctoral study at George Washington University. Describe your academic objectives, primary and supporting field of study, research areas of interest, and career plans. Also discuss your related qualifications, including collegiate, professional and community activities, and any other substantial accomplishments not already mentioned in the application.

Additional requirements: A resumé is required

International applicants only: Please review International Applicant Information (<https://graduate.admissions.gwu.edu/international-student-application-requirements>) (<https://graduate.admissions.gwu.edu/international-student-application-requirements/>) carefully for details on required documents, earlier deadlines for applicants requiring an I-20 or DS-2019 from GW, and English language requirements.

Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:

Office of Graduate Admissions
Graduate School of Education and Human Development
The George Washington University
2136 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20052

Contact for questions:

gsehdadm@gwu.edu ~ 202-994-9283 (phone) ~ 202.994.7207 (fax)
9:30 am - 6:00 pm, Monday through Friday

REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be fulfilled:

The requirements for the Doctor of Education program (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/education-human-development/#doctoraltext>).

54 credits, including 12 credits in foundation courses, a minimum 15 credits in research courses including 3 credits in advanced research, a 3-credit internship, 9 credits in elective courses, a minimum 15 credits in dissertation courses, and successful completion of a comprehensive examination.

Code	Title	Credits
Required		
Neuroscience Foundations (6 credits)		
SPED 8306	Advanced Study in Development Science and Variance I: The Early Years	
SPED 8310	Advanced Study in Development Science and Variance II: The Later Years	
Leadership Foundations (6 credits)		
SPED 8308	Preparation for the Professoriate in Special Education	
SPED 8352	Disability and Public Policy	
Research Tools (15 credits)		
SPED 8304	Research and Trends in Special Education (Literature Review)	
EDUC 6116	Introduction to Educational Statistics	
EDUC 8120	Group Comparison Designs and Analyses	
EDUC 8122	Qualitative Research Methods	
Level B advanced research elective		
3 credits selected from the following in consultation with advisor:		
EDUC 8100	Experimental Courses	
EDUC 8130	Survey Research Methods	
EDUC 8131	Case Study Research Methods	
EDUC 8140	Ethnographic Research Methods	
EDUC 8142	Phenomenological Research Methods	
EDUC 8144	Discourse Analysis	
EDUC 8170	Educational Measurement	

EDUC 8171	Predictive Designs and Analyses
EDUC 8172	Multivariate Analysis
EDUC 8173	Structural Equation Modeling
EDUC 8174	Hierarchical Linear Modeling
EDUC 8175	Item Response Theory
EDUC 8177	Assessment Engineering

Internship	
SPED 8354	Doctoral Internship: Special Education

Interdisciplinary electives

9 credits in interdisciplinary elective courses selected from the following in consultation with the advisor:

SPED 6299	Federal Education Policy Institute
SPED 8303	Administration and Supervision of Special Education
SPED 8311	Doctoral Proseminar: Scholarly Writing in Applied Settings
SPED 8345	Consultation and the Change Process

Dissertation	
SPED 8998	Doctoral Seminar in Special Education
SPED 8999	Dissertation Research (minimum 12 credits needed to complete requirement)

taken for a minimum of 12 credits

Comprehensive examination

Successful completion of a comprehensive examination is required.