

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION IN THE FIELD OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

The doctoral program in special education utilizes a cross-disciplinary 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 disability studies, developmental sciences, and special education to meaningfully translate that knowledge to the most pressing issues related to development, learning, school-based practices, and community-based programming for students with disabilities.

Students collaborate with faculty in 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 program also seeks students who can advance research with cross-disciplinary partners to improve outcomes for children and families.

Visit the program website (<https://gsehd.gwu.edu/programs/doctorate-special-education/>) 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 optional.

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: Your statement of purpose should address a problem of practice and/or research interest related to PK-12 special education and/or disability studies.

Additional requirements: A resumé and interview are 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 (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/education-human-development/#doctoraltext>).

54 credits, including 12 credits in foundation courses; a minimum of 15 credits in research courses, including 3 credits in advanced research; a 3-credit internship; 9 credits in elective courses; a minimum of 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
Advanced research elective	
3 credits in Level B research methods coursework selected in consultation with the advisor.	
Internship	
SPED 8354	Doctoral Internship: Special Education

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 (taken for a minimum of 12 credits)

Comprehensive examination

Successful completion of a comprehensive examination is required.

services/) students can also consult their faculty advisor or research methods faculty (<https://gsehd.gwu.edu/directory/>) for additional guidance.

Code	Title	Credits
EDUC 8100	Experimental Courses (Mixed Methods Research)	
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 8147	Critical Methodologies in Educational Research	
EDUC 8148	Qualitative Data Collection	
EDUC 8149	Qualitative Data 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	

DOCTORAL PROGRAM LEVEL B COURSES

Doctoral Program Level B Courses

GSEHD's Level B research methods courses are advanced courses in a specific research methodology. All GSEHD doctoral students are required to take at least one Level B course in the methodology of their dissertation. The courses listed below are approved to meet this requirement. EDUC 8120 Group Comparison Designs and Analyses, and EDUC 8122 Qualitative Research Methods, must be completed before enrolling in a Level B course.

Some programs require more than one Level B course. Some Level B courses are taken in a predetermined sequence; for this reason, students should check each course description for prerequisites, as courses in the sequence build on others. More information regarding the Level B course sequence is available in the GSEHD Doctoral Student Handbook; (<https://gsehd.gwu.edu/student->