

# SPECIAL EDUCATION, PH.D.

The Ph.D. program in the Department of Special Education and Multiple Abilities (SPEMA) is designed around the interests of the student and the expertise of the faculty, and aims to produce a top researcher seeking an appointment in a university or research setting. Before acceptance into the program, the department evaluates whether a student's interest area matches with an area of faculty expertise. Once accepted, students work with the Plan of Study committee (POS) to shape their course of study. The POS is made up of faculty, including the student's advisor. Many interests related to special education field can be accommodated, including subfields related to autism spectrum disorders, behavior disorders and prevention, early childhood special education, early intervention, gifted and talented, non-categorical special education, severe disabilities, and transitions.

## Admissions

In addition to the minimum Graduate School admission requirements, to be considered for regular admission an application must include:

- A recent (within the last five years) GRE score of 300 or higher.
- An earned MA degree in special education (or a related area) with an accomplished scholarly record at the master's level
- Three years of appropriate experience (defined as three years of work in agencies serving children and youth, one year of which must have been spent in direct, full-time interaction with exceptional children)
- A demonstrated commitment to a scholarly career in special education
- A successful presentation to the department
- A successful interview process with faculty members.

Graduate faculty members individually evaluate and collectively discuss admission applications.

*A composite GRE score of 300 or better is required for all candidates, irrespective of degree program, who are seeking an appointment as a college-sponsored Graduate Assistant.*

See the Admission Criteria section of this catalog for more information.

## Curricular Requirements

A minimum of 66 semester credit hours beyond the master's degree is required for completion of the Ph.D. program, but highly recommended additional research courses would extend the hours. These 66 hours consist of the following courses: 24 hours of special education courses; 12 hours of educational foundations courses; 12 hours of research courses; and 18 dissertation hours.

Code and Title	Hours
<b>Educational Foundations courses</b>	<b>12</b>
Select from the following courses:	
BCE 513 Career Development	
BCE 522 Indiv & Group Appraisal	
BCE 653 Intro Play Therapy	
BEF 507 Sociology Of Education	
BEF 534 Multicultural Education	
BEF 577 Readings in Critical Sociology of Education	
BEF 607 Readings In Soc Of Ed	
BEF 639 Educ Theory And Policy	
BEF 644 Phil Science Rel Ed Res	

BEF 667 Multicult Soc Ed Leadershp	
BEP 505 Motivation and Self-Regulation	
BEP 550 Life Span Development	
BEP 500 Adv Educational Psych	
BEP 561 Social Cult Basis Behav	
CAT 531 Computer Based Instruction	
or an advisor-approved foundations course	
<b>Educational Research courses</b>	<b>12</b>
Select from the following courses:	
BER 540 Statistical Methods In Educ	
BER 555 Measure & Eval: Social & Behav	
BER 558 Psychometric Theory	
BER 600 Survey of Educational Research	
BER 631 Inqry As Interp: Qual I	
BER 660 Eval I:Theory & Practice	
or an advisor-approved BER course	
<b>Special Education courses (24 hours)</b>	
SPE 600 Doctoral Seminar Spe (usually taken in the first semester)	3
SPE 601 Sem Col Teachg In Spe	3
The remaining Special Education coursework may come from the following SPE courses or other courses on campus closely linked to special education.	18
SPE 606 Topical Seminar In Spe (Behavior Management)	
SPE 606 Topical Seminar In Spe (Special Topics)	
SPE 609 Practicum In Spe (teaching a course, with faculty guidance, or other field experience; can be taken more than once)	
SPE 611 Ind Study In Spe (may be taken up to four times)	
SPE 612 Readg Research In Spe (Pre-Dissertation Study; e.g., pilot study; practice data collection; IRB submission)	
SPE 616 Adv. Professional Development (deliver PD, with faculty guidance, such as training early intervention or special education personnel in practices and models)	
SPE 617 SPE Leadership	
SPE 621, SPE 623, or SPE 681: Issues in Exceptionality for ECSE, collaborative/non-categorical, gifted	
SPE 622, SPE 624, or SPE 682: Advanced Curriculum Workshop for ECSE, collaborative/non-categorical, gifted	
<b>Dissertation Research</b>	<b>18</b>
SPE 699 Dissertation Research	
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>66</b>

Most of the doctoral seminars are taught every 2 years, to ensure sufficient enrollment.

## Transfer Credit

Graduate School information on Transfer Credit.

## Doctoral Plan of Study Requirements

Graduate School information on the Doctoral Plan of Study.

## **Comprehensive Exams**

A comprehensive exam designed to assess the breadth and depth of a student's knowledge and skills is administered twice each academic year.

[Graduate School information on Comprehensive Exams.](#)

## **Admission to Candidacy Requirements**

[Graduate School information on Admission to Candidacy.](#)

## **Continuous Enrollment Policy**

[Graduate School information on Continuous Enrollment.](#)

## **Dissertation Requirements**

[Graduate School information on Dissertation Requirements.](#)

## **Time Limits for Degree Completion**

[Graduate School information on Time Limits.](#)

## **Academic Misconduct Information**

[Graduate School information on Academic Misconduct.](#)

## **Withdrawals and Leave of Absence Information**

[Graduate School Information on Withdrawals and Leave of Absence information .](#)

## **Academic Grievances Information**

[Graduate School information on Academic Grievances.](#)

## **Grades and Academic Standing**

[Graduate School information on Grades and Academic Standing.](#)

## **Graduate School Deadlines**

[Information on Graduate School Deadlines.](#)

## **Application for Graduation**

[Information on the Application for Graduation.](#)