

Doctoral Admission, Program, and Graduation Requirements

April 2023

Admission Requirements for Doctorate (PhD) in Special Education

1. The student must have a master's degree from an approved college or university.
2. The student must have a grade point average and Graduate Record Examination scores as follows:
 - a. An average of 3.5 or higher in all graduate work taken;
 - b. Minimum GRE scores of 148 (verbal), 144 (quantitative) and 3 (analytical writing).
3. The student must have completed at least 3 years of full-time experience working with individuals with disabilities.
4. Each applicant for admission to the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in Special Education must be approved by the department. This recommendation will in part be based upon an interview and a writing sample.

Admission to Candidacy for Doctorate (PhD) in Special Education

Admission to the doctoral program does not constitute admission to candidacy for the degree. Admission to candidacy for the doctoral degree has the following requirements:

1. The student must be accepted by the department.
2. The student must have selected a chair and doctoral dissertation committee.
3. The student must have had a formal program of studies prepared in cooperation with the doctoral academic committee and maintained continuous annual enrollment.
4. The student must pass the comprehensive examination in the area of Special Education. This examination will be given at or near completion of the coursework in the student's program.
5. The student must complete Form 8-Admission to Candidacy for the Doctoral Degree with the Graduate College.
6. The student must have completed two consecutive semesters of full-time graduate study, residency requirements and internship requirements.

Degree (Program) Requirements for Doctorate (PhD) in Special Education

The minimum requirements for the degree are:

1. Department core courses (18 credits);
2. Cognate (a minimum of 15 credits);
3. Research and Statistics (a minimum of 18 credits);
4. Electives (6 credits);

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5. Computer Utilization (demonstration of competence);
6. Dissertation (12 to 20 credits);
7. Internship (6 credits);
8. Leadership training seminars (6 credits);
9. The student must maintain continuous enrollment and demonstrate progress toward the degree, including documentation of leadership accomplishments in a doctoral portfolio;
10. The student must have completed two consecutive semesters of full-time graduate study and residency requirements;
11. The student must have a successful defense of the dissertation;
12. The student must be recommended by the faculty of the department and the College for the degree;
13. The student must complete a minimum of 75 credits beyond the bachelor's degree. This includes the 72-credit minimum to satisfy department degree requirements.

Graduation Requirements for Doctorate (PhD) in Special Education

Students must apply for graduation early in the semester in which they plan to graduate. All dissertation and application paperwork must be complete within the deadlines set by the Registrar and Graduate College.

The University will confer the doctoral degree when the following minimum conditions have been met:

- Submission of required application for degree
- Positive recommendation from the College of Education
- Certification that all requirements of the degree being sought have been completed
- Achievement of the grade requirements as defined by the Department
- Achievement of the grade requirements established by the College of Education
- Conformance to residency requirement and time limits
- Satisfactory completion and defense of a doctoral dissertation
- A copy of dissertation submitted to the Graduate College by the specified date (see, Graduate College website for specific semester dates, <https://www.fau.edu/graduate/degree-completion/deadlines/>)
- Payment of microfilming costs and copyright fees, if applicable, one week before the date of graduation.

If for any reason graduation is delayed, the candidate may reapply for graduation in a subsequent semester.