



FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

Department of
Special Education
College of Education

Doctoral Application: Selection of Major Professor

First Name:	Last Name:	Cell Phone:	
Address:	City:	State:	Zip:
Email:	Seeking admission for: FALL/Year		

Major Professor Model. The doctoral experience is a developmental process, in which students are expected to complete a sequence of courses, engage in a series of related activities, and develop/enhance knowledge, skills, and dispositions in special education. Students in the special education doctoral program are guided through the program by a Major Professor. The Major Professor is an advisor, mentor, and coach to students. To facilitate a match between a potential student and their Major Professor, applicants are asked to compose a statement expressing interest in working with a faculty member as their Major Professor.

Task. Doctoral applicants are required to select up to two faculty whom they would like to serve as their Major Professor. Prior to making this selection, review faculty research and areas of interest. Information about our faculty can be found on the department's [faculty web pages](#). Some faculty also have profiles on these websites: [ORCID](#), [Research Gate](#), or [Google Scholar](#).

Statement of Application. Compose a narrative (limit to no more than 300 words) explaining why you are interested in working with two faculty members within the Florida Atlantic Department of Special Education as your Major Professor. In your statement, address the following points:

1. **Research Alignment:** How does [Professor's Name]'s research align with your academic interests and long-term career goals? Be specific about the projects, themes, or methodologies that you find particularly compelling.
2. **Contribution to Field:** What aspects of [Professor's Name]'s work do you find most inspiring or innovative, and how do you see your own research contributing to or building upon this work?
3. **Fit with Your Background and Skills:** How do your previous experiences, academic background, and skill set prepare you to collaborate effectively with [Professor's Name]? What specific expertise or strengths can you bring to their research?

4. **Future Research Directions:** What are your own research interests, and how do you envision your doctoral work evolving under [Professor's Name]'s mentorship? How do you see the potential for mutual growth and development in the research process?