

SPECIAL EDUCATION DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PH.D.)

Explanation of program changes

I. Proposed Curricular Changes

a. Current program: Total 80 credits

- i. Area I-ESE Core (18 cr); Area II-Statistics and Research (15cr); Pre-Candidacy Research (3-6cr); Area III- Internship (6cr); Area IV-Departmental Concentration (15 cr, min. 9 in ESE); Area IV-Leadership Seminars (6 one cr. courses); Area VI- Residency (2 consecutive semesters; working with faculty for approximately 20 hours/week); Area VII-Dissertation (12cr); Area VIII-Additional Courses

ii. Program total 80 credits

b. Proposed Changes:

- i. Re-organize the areas, streamlining number of content of courses.
- ii. Special Education Core and Specialization courses will be offered mostly online (reflected in course changes and new courses).
- iii. Reduce the overall number of credits to 66-72 credits, as follows:

Special Education Core (12cr); Specialization (12cr); Statistics, Research (18-21cr); Doctoral Seminars in Special Education (6cr); Doctoral Internship and Residency in Special Education (6cr); and, Dissertation (12cr)		
Area I Special Education Core (12cr)- Formerly known as ESE Core <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Historical, Theoretical, and Legal Foundations of Special-3cr (new course) ▪ Contemporary Trends in Special Education-3cr (new course) ▪ Teaching and Learning for Individuals with Disabilities-3cr (new course) ▪ EEX 7256 Grant Writing (3cr) 	Area II Specialization (12cr)- Formerly known as Departmental Concentration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students choose 12 credits, 9 of which must be within the special education department to create an area of <i>specialization</i> 	Area III Statistics & Research (18-21 cr)- STA 6113 and EDF 6481 remain as pre-requisites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ STA 7114 Advanced Educational Statistics (3cr) ▪ EDF 7482 Advanced Educational Research (3cr) ▪ Elective in Quantitative or Qualitative Method (3cr) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Highly recommended: EEX 7618 Advanced ABA (3cr) ▪ Elective in Quantitative or Qualitative Method (3cr) ▪ Elective in Quantitative or Qualitative Method (3cr) ▪ Pre-candidacy Research in Special Education (3-6cr) supervised by Principle Professor and one other professor (optional)
Area IV Doctoral Seminars in Special Education (6 cr) Two credit seminar taken three times. Seminar topics:	Area V Doctoral Internship and Residency in Special Education (6cr)	Area VI Dissertation (12 credits) Dissertation must be completed across a minimum of 2 semesters (fall and spring)

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ College Teaching (course change);▪ Triad of Professional Activities: Teaching, Research, and Service (course change);▪ Professional Dissemination (course change);	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Doctoral Internship in Special Education -3cr (course change)▪ Doctoral Residency in Special Education- 3cr	

CATALOG CHANGES: [HTTPS://WWW.FAU.EDU/REGISTRAR/UNIVERSITY-CATALOG/CATALOG/EDUCATION/](https://www.fau.edu/registrar/university-catalog/catalog/education/)

SPECIAL EDUCATION DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PH.D.)

Admission Requirements

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 three years of full-time experience working with individuals with disabilities.
4. Each applicant for admission to the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in Special Education must be approved for admission by the department. This recommendation will, in part, be based upon an interview and a writing sample.

Admission to Candidacy

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 **dissertation** chair and doctoral dissertation committee.
3. The student must have had a formal program of studies prepared in cooperation with the ~~doctoral academic committee~~ **principle professor (advisor)** and maintained continuous annual enrollment.
4. **The student must have completed all doctoral program coursework (excluding dissertation), internship, and residency requirements.**

5. The student must **have** passed the **doctoral** 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.
6. The student must **have** completed Form 8-Admission to Candidacy for the Doctoral Degree with the Graduate College.
7. ~~The student must have completed two consecutive semesters of full-time graduate study, residency requirements and internship requirements.~~

Degree Requirements

The minimum requirements for the degree are:

1. The student must have completed the following degree course requirements:

- a. ~~Department core courses (18-12 credits);~~ **Area I Special Education Core (12 credits);**
- b. ~~Cognate (a minimum of 15 credits);~~ **Area II Specialization (12 cr);**
- c. ~~Research and Statistics (a minimum of 18 credits);~~ **Area III Statistics & Research (18-21 cr);**
- d. ~~Electives (6 credits);~~ **Area IV Doctoral Seminar in Special Education (taken three times) (2 credit seminar taken 3 times; 6 cr total)-**
- e. ~~Computer Utilization (demonstration of competence);~~
- f. **Area V Internship and Residency (6 cr);**
- g. **Area VI Dissertation (12 cr minimum to 20 credits);**

~~2. Internship (6 credits);~~

~~3. Leadership training seminars (6 credits);~~

4. The student must maintain continuous enrollment and demonstrate progress toward the degree; including documentation of leadership accomplishments in a doctoral portfolio;

~~5. The student must have completed two consecutive semesters of full-time graduate study and residency requirements;~~

6. The student must have successfully completed the department's annual evaluation process each spring in the program;
7. The student must have a successful defense of the dissertation;
8. The student must complete a minimum of 75 72 credits beyond the bachelor's degree. This includes the 66 72-credit minimum to satisfy department doctoral degree requirements.
9. The student must be recommended by the faculty of the department and the College for the degree.

Commented [SD1]: Please re-number these items after the deletions.

Degree Requirements - minimum of 75 69 credits

Area I/Special Education Core Courses - 18 12 credits

Contemporary Trends in Special Education	EEX XXXX	3
Learning and Behavioral Characteristics of Individuals with Disabilities	EEX 7055	3
Doctoral Seminar: Exceptional Student Education	EEX 7341	3
Legal Foundations of Special Education	EEX 7525	3
Grant Writing	EEX 7526	3
Advanced Applied Behavior Analysis	EEX 7618	3
Cultural and Linguistic Diversity: Issues and Implications in Special Education	EEX 7795	3
Historical, Theoretical, and Legal Foundations of Special-3cr	EEX XXXX	3
Teaching and Learning for Individuals with Disabilities	EEX XXXX	3

Commented [SD2]: Please reorder the areas so that they appear numerically. For example, Area I, Area II, Area III, etc.

Area III Statistics and Research and Statistics - 18-21 credits

Advanced Educational Research**	EDF 7482	3
Advanced Educational Statistics	STA 7114	3
Select three additional courses (9 credits)**		
Electives in Quantitative or Qualitative Methods**		9
<i>Students are to select three courses; the department highly recommends EEX 7618 Advanced ABA as one of the three.</i>		
Pre-Candidacy Research in Special Education (variable credit, up to 6 credits, 3 credits required)	EEX 7918	1-6

** May select research courses at the ~~5000~~, 6000 or 7000 level with approval of advisor.

Area II Specializations - ~~15~~ 12 credits

Select five courses (15 credits) at the ~~5000~~, 6000 or 7000 level from the College of Education with at least 9 credits from the Special Education Department.

Students choose 12 credits at the 5000, 6000 or 7000 level, 9 of which must be within the Department of Special Education to create an area of specialization.

Area VI Dissertation - 12 credits (minimum)

Dissertation (~~taken over multiple terms~~) (*Dissertation must be completed across a minimum of 2 semesters; fall and spring only; maximum 6 credits within one semester*) EEX 7980 1-~~10~~ 12

Area V Internship and Residency - ~~6~~ 9 credits

Doctoral Internship in Special Education EEX 7945 3-~~6~~ 3

Doctoral Residency in Special Education EEX XXXX 3

Leadership Training Area IV Doctoral Seminars in Special Education - 6 credits

Seminar in Exceptional Student Education Leadership ~~Two credit~~ seminar (taken ~~six~~ three times). Topics: Course Development and College Teaching; Triad of Professional Activities in Higher Education; and, Professional Dissemination. EEX 7938 4 6

75 ~~66~~ 72

Total

(does not include additional credits from master's program)

Statements of No Conflict
Special Education PHD Program Changes
March 2024

From: Paul Peluso <ppeluso@fau.edu>
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2024 3:15 PM
To: Robert Shockley <SHOCKLEY@fau.edu>; Carman Gill <gillc@fau.edu>; Charles Dukes <cdukes@fau.edu>; Dale Williams <DWILLIAM@health.fau.edu>
Subject: Fw: PhD SPED changes-chair input

Colleagues,

The Department of Special Education proposes changes to the PhD program in Special Education. The change includes a program change, course revisions, and the creation of five new courses.

Program change.

- Reduce the total number of credits from 80 to 69-72.
- The application process will be changed to reflect the following:
 - One time per year entry (fall)
 - Integrate Department Application materials in GradCAS-everything submitted through GradCAS
 - Conduct Interviews via Zoom
 - Eliminate GRE as a requirement
- Eliminate Academic Committees. Students will be advised by one faculty member (i.e., principle professor (e.g., “lab model”).
- Students will choose dissertation committees after completing their pre-candidacy research (i.e., two additional SPED faculty members) the dissertation committee will write and grade comprehensive exam questions.
- After completion of comprehensive exams, select an additional “outside,” fourth dissertation committee member.
- Students will be required to choose a dissertation format by the end of their second semester in the program-
 - *Traditional* (one empirical study reported in four or five chapters)
 - *Two publishable papers* (one systematic review of literature paper; one empirical pre-candidacy research paper)
 - *Two publishable empirical research papers* (two empirical research papers, one of which is the pre-candidacy research paper)

Course revisions and new courses.

1. **Course Changes (revisions)** (See Attachment 1). This contains a course change form for *EEX 7938 Seminar in Exceptional Student Education Leadership*. This seminar is being changed from a series of one-credit seminars, taken six times, to a series of two-credit seminars, taken three times. The attached syllabi are the three different topics they explore in the iterations of the seminar:
 - a. *Course Development and College Teaching*;
 - b. *Professional Dissemination*; and
 - c. *Triad of Professional Activities in Higher Education*

Statements of No Conflict
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March 2024

2. New Courses

- a. *Historical, Theoretical, and Legal Foundations of Special Education* (See attachment 2).
- b. *Teaching and Learning for Individuals with Disabilities*. (See attachment 3). Once approved, this will replace two existing courses in the DSE Doctoral curriculum.
- c. *Doctoral Residency in Special Education* (See attachment 4). *Doctoral Residency in Special Education*. Residency was an experience not connected to a specific course. The experience has now be codified into a formal course and will allow students to engage in an extended teaching apprenticeship (after Doctoral Internship) or engage in a research apprenticeship with their principle professor.
- d. *Doctoral Internship in Special Education* (See attachment 5). Doctoral Internship was two courses worth 6 credits. This one 3 credit course will replace the two courses. The course will still serve as a teaching apprenticeship for doctoral students.
- e. *Contemporary Trends in Special Education* (See attachment 6). This new course will replace EEX 7795 Cultural and Linguistic Diversity and EEX 7341 Doctoral Seminar. The course will immerse students in a variety of special education topics highlighted by in-depth discussion and projects allowing them to gain an understanding of how the topics impact policy, practice, programming, and research.

If you would kindly review these, and let me know if there is any conflict or area of concern that we need to discuss ahead of forwarding this to the Graduate Programs Committee, I would appreciate it. If at all possible, by the end of next week would be ideal.

Many thanks,

-Paul

Paul R. Peluso, Ph.D., LMHC, LMFT
Senior Associate Dean
College of Education

Interim Chair
Department of Special Education

Professor
Department of Counselor Education

Fellow, American Counseling Association

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Statements of No Conflict
Special Education PHD Program Changes
March 2024

From: Charles Dukes <cdukes@fau.edu>
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2024 3:32 PM
To: Paul Peluso <ppeluso@fau.edu>
Subject: Re: PhD SPED changes-chair input

Hello,
The Department of Curriculum and Instruction has no conflicts.

Charles Dukes, EdD, PhD
Professor and Chair, Department of Curriculum and Instruction
Professor and Doctoral Coordinator, Department of Special Education
Florida Atlantic University
777 Glades Road Boca Raton, FL 33431
E-mail: cdukes@fau.edu
office-561 297 3965

To learn more about me and my research,
go to <https://www.fau.edu/education/faculty/dukes/>

From: Dale Williams <DWILLIAM@health.fau.edu>
Sent: Friday, February 23, 2024 2:57 PM
To: Paul Peluso <ppeluso@fau.edu>
Subject: RE: PhD SPED changes-chair input

No conflicts with CSD.

Dale Williams, Chair
Communication Sciences and Disorders

From: Carman Gill <gillc@fau.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 12:12 PM
To: Paul Peluso <ppeluso@fau.edu>
Subject: Re: PhD SPED changes-chair input

No conflicts here.

Carman S. Gill, PhD, LCMHC, NCC, ACS
Professor and Chair
Department of Counselor Education
Florida Atlantic University
77 Glades Rd.

**Statements of No Conflict
Special Education PHD Program Changes
March 2024**

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Boca Raton, FL 33431-0991

From: Robert Shockley <SHOCKLEY@fau.edu>

Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 1:56 PM

To: Paul Peluso <ppeluso@fau.edu>

Subject: Re: PhD SPED changes-chair input

No conflicts with ELRM. RS

Robert Shockley, Chair

Educational Leadership and Research Methodology

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End