

SPECIAL EDUCATION, PH.D.

Tracks

1. University Teaching and Research
2. Special Education Leadership

Program Description

The Ph.D. program in special education focuses on preparing special education professionals with emphasis on either teacher education and research or administration and leadership. The Ph.D. program prepares its graduates to become successful and productive special education faculty members or administrators through an intensive course of advanced study. Courses include both seminars and experiential learning.

Learning Outcomes

Admission

1. In addition to The Graduate School's application requirements, applicants must have the following materials on file at The Graduate School, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208. Students applying for grant positions must have all materials on file prior to faculty interview.
 - a. a supplemental application form for the Ph.D. in Special Education, and a letter of intent
 - b. evidence that the applicant holds a professional certification in education or a related field (e.g., speech/language pathology, school psychology)
 - c. evidence of five years of direct educational experience, which may include working with exceptional individuals in school, clinic, or residential settings.
2. Upon verification of the above requirements the applicant will interview with the Programs in Special Education Admissions Committee and participate in an extemporaneous writing sample.

Specialized Competencies

- Demonstrate the ability to identify and discuss major theories and philosophies related to learning and the education of individuals with disabilities
- Demonstrate the ability to identify governmental and legal structures, requirements, and parameters relating to the education and life issues of individuals with disabilities.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the theoretical support for analysis of policies, procedures, and strategies that govern and direct educational programs (leadership).
- Demonstrate knowledge of theories in educational leadership and the application of these theories in practical settings (leadership).
- Demonstrate knowledge of pedagogical styles and the application of these styles in practical settings (higher ed).
- Demonstrate a personal philosophy of teacher-education and pedagogical preferences, and the application of this knowledge in practical settings (higher ed).